This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

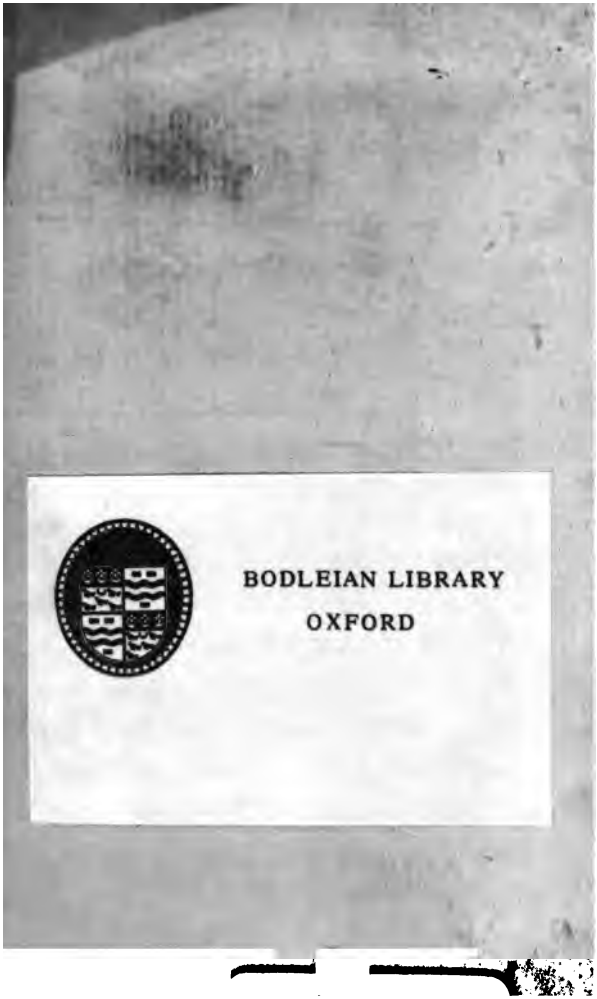
+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

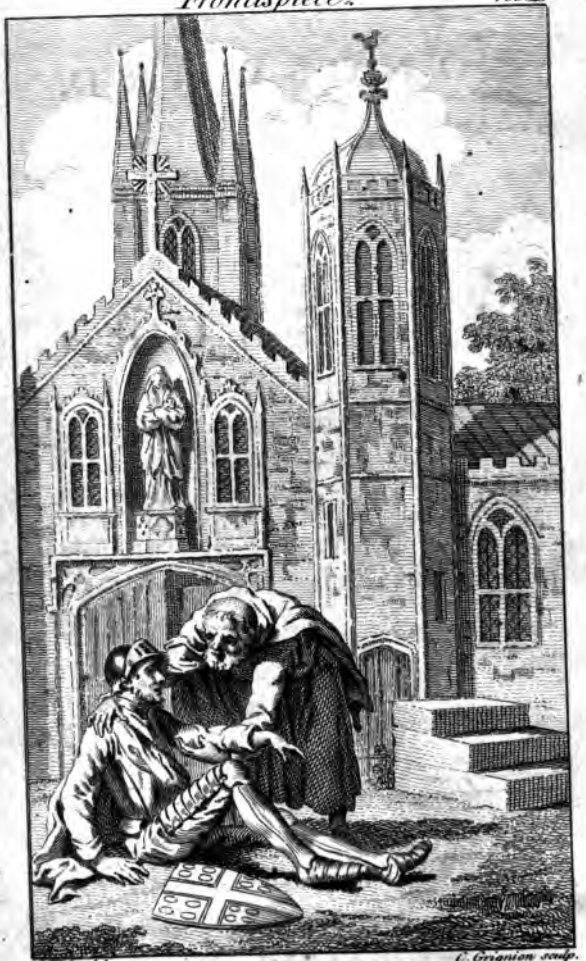
+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`


BODLEIAN LIBRARY
OXFORD



S. Wale del. C. Grignion sculp.

LONGSWORD,

EARL OF

SALISBURY.

AN

HISTORICAL ROMANCE.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
Printed for W. JOHNSTON, in Ludgate-Street.
MDCCLXII.

249. s. 4.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE out-lines of the following ſtory, and ſome of the incidents and more minute circumſtances, are to be found in the antient Engliſh hiſtorians. If too great liberties have been taken in altering or enlarging their accounts, the reader who looks only for amuſement will probably forgive it: the learned and critical (if this work ſhould be honoured by ſuch readers) will deem it a matter of too little conſequence to call for the ſeverity of their cenſure.----It is generally expected that pieces of this kind ſhould convey ſome one uſeful moral: which moral, not always perhaps, the moſt valuable or refined, is ſometime

times made to float on the ſurface of the narrative; or is plucked up at proper intervals, and preſented to the view of the reader, with great ſolemnity. But the author of theſe ſheets hath too high an opinion of the judgment and penetration of his readers, to purſue this method. Although he cannot pretend to be very *deep*, yet he hopes he is *clear*. And if any thing lies at bottom, worth the picking up, it will be diſcovered without his direction.

ERRATA.

Page 39. l. 9. for paſs'd r. ſpent.
p. 89. l. 20. for work r. worſt.
p. 99. l. 7. for enemy r. enemies.
p. 214. l. 13. for was r. were.

LONG-

LONGSWORD,
Earl of SALISBURY.

BOOK I.

SECT. I.

WHEN HENRY, the third of that name, reigned in England, Sir RANDOLPH, a valiant knight of Cornwal, now too old to take a part in the affairs and commotions of the realm, retired to the peaceful enjoyment of thoſe honours and fortunes, which he had purchaſed by a ſeries of hardy ſervices in the field. The eve of his life was engaged in the pleaſing

occupation of training up two youths, his ſons, who were riſing faſt to maturity; in teaching them the ſacred duties which they owed to heaven and to their country, inſpiring them with a gallant love of arms, and poſſeſſing their minds with undaunted courage duly tempered with benevolence and humanity.

The ſeaſon was genial, the evening ſerene and refreſhing; when Randolph wandered forth, with a youth attending him on each ſide, eagerly liſtening to his narrative of wars and glorious dangers. The boys paſſed ſlowly on, with their eyes and thoughts fixed on their father, 'till they were inſenſibly led to the brow of a chalky cliff, commanding a wide and uninterrupted view of the calm unruffled ſea, that now reflected all the rich and glowing crimſon of the ſetting ſun. Here they ſat down,

down, and urgently entreated their father to renew the ſtory of his dangers in the Holy Land, the atchievements of the brave ſoldiers of the croſs; the recent wars in France, and the valour of Earl Richard and his Knights; while the attention of Randolph was fixed on a ſmall barque, now approaching to the ſhore.

Its keel cut ſwiftly and deeply into the ſands, and a general ſhout from the veſſel rouſed the little company, whoſe attention was ſtill farther awakened, when they obſerved the deportment of the man who firſt leaped on ſhore. His garb was that of an humble pilgrim, whoſe holy vows were leading him to ſome ſcene of devotion; and by his ſide hung a large and trenchant weapon befitting the ſon of honourable war, rather than the votary of religion; his look was pale and ſquallid;

but his port erect; and a ſecret greatneſs and manly dignity ſeemed to break thro' all the gloom of adverſity which ſurrounded him. No ſooner had he touched the ſtrand, than he ſtood for a moment, as it were, in a ſtill and motionleſs ſurprize; then falling on his knees, with arms croſſed, and eyes raiſed up to heaven, his looks expreſſed the moſt rapturous gratitude and thankfulneſs, as if for a deliverance from ſome great calamity; whilſt ſome others of the crew, with all appearances of tender regard, conveyed a young and beautiful perſonage to ſhore, dreſſed in the ſame habit with their leader. The whole ſcene was extraordinary and affecting: the youths had deſcried it, and ſtarting up, and turning to their father, ſeemed to demand the reaſon of this appearance. 'Come, my ſons, cried Randolph, this 'ſtranger appears unfortunate; perhaps

'he

'he may accept of our hoſpitable recep-
'tion; let our friendly offices not be want-
'ing, to allay his grief, and to ſupply his
'neceſſities.' Thus ſaying, he led them by a winding deſcent towards the ſhore, whose the crew were by this time diſem-barqued.

Sir Randolph approached the ſtranger, (to whom the reſt of the company ſeemed to pay a particular regard) with a concern truly humane: when, inſtantly, the eyes of each were fixed in mute ſurprize upon the other.— 'My General!'—'My Knight!' Their tongues could utter no more: they ruſhed into each other's arms, and clung together in a tumultuous diſorder of grief, amazement, and affection. At length, words forced their paſſage. 'Great Earl!' cried Randolph, 'and do I really behold 'thee? Do I embrace the man, under

'whoſe command my laſt days of ho-
'nourable war ſaw glory and victory?
'Hath my leader ſurvived the dreadful
'night of tempeſt which diſperſed our
'ſhips! He whom we imagined buried in
'the ſeas! Is he at length returned in
'ſafety? But why this garb? Are theſe
'wretched weeds, befitting the ſon of an
'illuſtrious monarch, the conqueror of
'Gaſcoigne, the glory of England? Thou
'art come, but not to peace and repoſe:
'danger, difficulty, and diſtreſs, are ſtill
'prepared for that undaunted ſpirit!'—
'Am I not in England?' replied the
ſtranger. 'Have I not, at length, hap-
'pily eſcaped the inſidious attempts of
'my enemies? What dangers have I now
'to fear? No, my deareſt ELA! illuſtrious
'dame! tendereſt wife! In thy arms
'ſhall I now forget my dangers. To thee
'I fly, to wipe away thoſe tears, which

'burſt forth at my departure, and muſt 'have flowed in full ſtreams, during this 'melancholy interval of my abſence. In 'thee and thy endearments ſhall all my 'future hopes be centered: and never, no, 'never more ſhall WILLIAM be deluded 'by the ſmiling promiſes of glory, to 'hazard the chance of arms! Enough 'hath been already done: enough hath 'been given to honour and to my country. 'Peace and retirement, repoſe and tran-'quillity be now the lot of theſe ſhat-'tered limbs, and this diſtracted, wearied, 'ſpirit!'

Whilſt the Earl thus indulged his flattering proſpects of tranquillity, the thoughts of Randolph were buſy and diſordered; he ſurveyed him with a mixture of pity and affection; and half ſuppreſſing the ſigh that laboured in his breaſt, he aſſumed a

look of eaſe and complacency, and invited Lord William and his attendants to partake of the refreſhment which his neighbouring reſidence afforded. They paſſed on with the pleaſing ſenſations of men, who after a length of days ſpent in a foreign and unfriendly land, began once more to taſte the comforts of a native country, and to ſhare in the ſocial intercourſe of kinſmen and fellow citizens. Their leader turned to the youthful pilgrim, whom he embraced with a tender and affectionate concern; but with ſuch joy as ſeemed clouded by the remembrance of paſt calamities. They retired a few paces as if in private conference, and the elder ſeemed intent in comforting and encouraging. The courteous Knight would not break in upon their private conference, and to leave them the more free to indulge that mutual affection which they

diſco-

diſcovered, he turned to his youths: 'Be-
'hold,' ſaid he, 'this truly honourable
'Lord, great in deſcent, powerful in arms;
'full of the mighty ſpirit of his royal
'father the ſecond Henry, a monarch fa-
'tally ſeduced by the beauty of Roſa-
'mond: and (mark the juſt diſpenſations
'of heaven) heavy was the puniſhment
'which the mother paid, for her forbidden
'love: nor hath misfortune ſpared this
'the offspring of an unlawful and un-
'happy paſſion. Yet let us be juſt to his
'virtues; and learn from him, that re-
'nown is not to be purchaſed but by toil
'and perils. Under his banners hath your
'father oftentimes encountered dangers.
'With him did I haſten to ſupport the
'cauſe and title of our King, when John
'had met his fate, and the ſon of France
'rioted in the calamities of England,
'With him did theſe old arms contribute

'to

'to execute the vengeance of our coun-
'try upon the adherents of the perfidious
'Lewis; and when the Count Mal-leon
'revolted from his liege lord, and erected
'the ſtandard of France in our province
'of Gaſcoigne, then did he bravely ſe-
'cond the efforts of Richard, uncle to
'our Prince, and led us on to victory.
'Aſpire to the ſame renown: but expect
'the like fortune: dream not of undiſ-
'turbed happineſs and tranquillity. By
'expecting labour and diſtreſs, you ſhall
'learn to encounter, and to conquer them,
'in a glorious and an honeſt cauſe.'

Thus far paternal tenderneſs diverted the attention of Randolph from his illuſtrious friend, who in this ſhort interval had been equally engaged. He embraced his followers, congratulated their happy arrival, and zealouſly extolled their merits and faithful

ſervices.

ſervices. The Knight, with all due courteſy, led them on towards his hoſpitable hall, which ſoon opened to their view, and ſoon received the wearied gueſts. No friendly care was wanting to recal their languid and drooping ſpirits. As men juſt ſnatched from the dread gulph of miſery, and ſuddenly reſtored to a degree of happineſs beyond the hopes and even the conceptions of their dejected thoughts, they gazed each upon his fellow in a ſilent extacy of ſurpriſe and joy; and ſtill more endeared to each other, as ſharers in the ſame misfortunes, their eyes, their hands encountered ſpontaneouſly, and they embraced with an affecting cordiality and pleaſure. Earl William, who now began to reſume his native dignity, his eyes, as it were, newly lightened up, his voice leſs plaintive, his aſpect greater, and his port ſtill more princely, earneſtly ſeized the hand of

that

that young perſonage, to whom he ſeemed more particularly attentive, and thus addreſſed himſelf to his hoſt. 'O, my 'friend, here is our deareſt charge. Know, 'and reſpect this beautiful maid, for ſuch 'ſhe is, the daughter of a brave and ho-'neſt ſoldier. His name Les Roches, and 'once mine enemy: but fortune and his 'virtues united us in bands of friendſhip, 'truly ſacred and inviolable. It is his 'goodneſs that I now ſee my native land. 'His generous pity ſaved me when the arm 'of mine enemy was juſt raiſed to ſtrike, 'to ſtrike me baſely, and treacherouſly, 'unknowing, unſuſpecting, and unpro-'vided for defence.' 'Welcome, Lady,' replied the Knight; 'alas! theſe limbs 'were not formed for toil or dangerous 'adventure. But where is thy gallant fa-'ther? My heart pants to embrace him; 'an Engliſh heart, which holds a ſoldier

'dear,

'dear, of whatever clime or country: and 'doubly dear, and doubly honoured, ſhall 'that ſoldier be, who reſtores a noble and 'beloved ſon to England.' Here grief threatened to break through the fair reſerve of female modeſty; and had already fallen in gentle drops, down her glowing cheeks; which the Earl perceiving, checked with a kindly reproving look; then ſoftly entreated Randolph to ſummon ſuch of his domeſtics as might be proper to conduct her to refreſhment and repoſe. Theſe inſtantly appeared, and were inſtructed to perform their offices with all tender and reſpectful care. The maid retired in ſilence: Randolph ſeemed wrapt in delight and wonder, whilſt the Earl purſued her parting ſteps with looks of ſweeteſt complacency and pity. The Knight then turning to the followers of this Lord, 'My friends,' ſaid

he, 'your toils demand retirement: this 'roof knows no other happineſs than to 'greet the approach of worth and valour. 'It is your's, and uſe it freely. For this 'night, at leaſt, forget your labours, and 'indulge your faint and harraſſed limbs in 'peaceful reſt.'——'Yes,' ſaid the Earl, 'to reſt, my dear companions; but, bear 'with my impatience, and be ſtirring with 'the dawn; that we may iſſue forth with 'new-recruited ſpeed, and quickly gain 'my caſtle. There ſhall our labours end; 'there ſhall the gentle Counteſs acknow-'ledge your deſerts; and there ſhall her 'long loſt Lord reward your fidelity.—— 'Sir Randolph, you too ſhall accompany 'us, and ſhare the general joy. We ſhall 'teach you to receive your fellow-ſoldier 'with a more lively ſympathy, and bright-'en that honeſt aſpect with gayer ſmiles.'

To

To this gentle reproof, which ſeemed to have eſcaped unwarily from the jealouſy of friendſhip, Randolph made no reply; but with a countenance of ſtrict compoſure, which effectually concealed whatever thoughts or paſſions were now buſy in his mind, he invited Lord William to retire. 'No, my friend,' replied the Earl,—'my 'followers are happily diſpoſed of: at laſt '(thanks to the preſerving hand of Heaven, 'and to thee) they enjoy that ſecure re-'poſe, to which they have been ſo long 'ſtrangers. I feel my heart eaſed of its 'oppreſſing load. Nor will I give theſe 'eyes to ſleep, till I have heard——Say, 'what of my wife, what of my friends, of 'the King and realm, can my good hoſt 'impart?——But chiefly of my wife; of 'Ela I would hear all thou canſt deliver; 'how hath ſhe borne this tedious abſence? 'Knoweſt thou not of her preſent ſtate? 'Speak!

'Speak! alas, the grief of my widowed 'dame ſeems to affect that good heart 'But ſay, is ſhe well'——Randolph had betrayed ſome agitation at theſe enquiries; but quickly recollecting his diſordered thoughts, 'her tenderneſs and love for 'thee have been approved,' ſaid he, 'in 'the abſence of her Lord: to morrow thou 'ſhalt ſeek her in her princely caſtle. But 'now indulge my impatience: ſay, what 'means this garb? this appearance of miſ'fortune? Who are theſe thy attendants?' ——'Yes,' ſaid the Earl, 'I will tell thee 'all. Sit down.——Thou wilt not be 'diſpleaſed to hear the ſtory of my misfor'tunes ſince our laſt dreadful ſeparation.' Randolph obeyed, and the Earl thus began.

SECT.

SECT. II.

'HOW can I recall to mind the fatal
'time, when our victorious army,
'loaded with the ſpoils of Gaſcoigne, re-
'imbarked, and with hearts of joy and ex-
'pectation, ſteered towards their native
'ſhore. Thou, Randolph, who hadſt
'ſhared the dangers of our war, whoſe hoary
'head ſtill diſdained to droop beneath its
'beaver, muſt retain the dreadful remem-
'brance of that night, when winds and
'ſeas conſpired together, and united their
'unrelenting fury againſt the bands of
'England: when the roaring hurricane
'deafened us with its horrid menaces, and
'the frequent lightening ſerved to diſcloſe
'all the terrors of the gloomy deep. Our
'army, that had undauntedly defied the

'ſwords of France, found now another ene-
'my, againſt whoſe obſtinate aſſaults their
'courage ſeemed but ineffectual: and eve-
'ry moment preſented us with the diſtract-
'ing expectation of periſhing in diſhonour-
'able obſcurity. And much doth it re-
'joice me, that in that extremity of diſtreſs,
'the bleſſed ſaints were not unmindful of
'Randolph, that my gallant knight was
'happily reſcued from deſtruction, to cheer
'his friends, and enjoy his latter days in
'peace and dignity. The fate of Saliſbury
'was more ſevere and affecting. The ſhip
'which received me and my aſſociates was
'quickly ſeparated from our fleet, a help-
'leſs and ſolitary prey to the violence of
'the tempeſt, which our pilot had neither
'ſkill nor ſpirit to oppoſe. And in that
'dreadful moment, when, raiſed to a giddy
'and terrible height, we hung upon the
'breaking wave, or ſunk down deep into

'the dark and yawning gulph, then was 'my heart's dear treaſure, my beloved 'dame, preſent to my diſtracted mind: to 'die was horrible; becauſe to die was to 'be torn from Ela. Her ſorrows crowded 'upon my buſy fancy; and I ſunk; O, 'my friend, how can I ſpeak it! I ſunk 'into a coward.——Doth that tear now 'ſtealing down your furrowed cheek ex-'preſs your pity of my weakneſs, or a ſenſe 'of my misfortunes?'——The diſorder of the good Knight, which could no longer be entirely concealed, here ſuſpended the narration. Lord William ſeized his hand with a look of ſurpriſe and concern at his ſenſibility: but Randolph prevented all expoſtulation, by a ſudden and violent effort to reſume his ſerenity. He ſoon recalled his thoughts to a compoſed attention, and at his deſire the Earl proceeded.

'Heaven was at length pleaſed in ſome 'degree to controul the violence of the 'ſtorm. The dawn of morning ſeemed 'to promiſe us at leaſt ſome reſpite from 'deſtruction: yet ſtill, helpleſs and de-'ſponding, without courſe or direction, 'we toſſed as the winds and tides impelled: 'and when at laſt we deſcried land, that 'cheering object to wretches who have 'ſupported an unequal conteſt with the 'raging tempeſt, only ſerved to inſpire us 'with new fears, leſt it ſhould prove the 'land of our enemy. But alas! it was 'decreed (and the ſhocking ſcene ſtill dwells 'on my imagination in all it's horror) that 'far the greater part of us ſhould never 'touch the ſhore which lay in view. We 'ſteered upon a coaſt utterly unknown: 'the rock which lay in ambuſh to deſtroy 'us, aſſailed our veſſel; the waves ruſhed 'impetuouſly through the breach. In that

'dread-

'dreadful moment, when hope vaniſhed,
'when Death ſtood with open arms to re-
'ceive his prey, the magnanimity of my
'dear unhappy companions —— how ſhall
'I ſpeak it! They clung round my knees
'with tears of ſollicitude and zeal for my
'preſervation. They entreated, they preſſed,
'they forced me to ſeek for ſafety in the
'boat, which it was their laſt care to make
'ready for their beloved captain, with ten
'more the moſt eminent in command.
'Reſolute and undiſmayed even in the very
'moment of their deſtruction, they hailed
'our departure and triumphed in our
'ſafety. I hear their ſhouts! they ſtill
'ſtrike my ears.——O England! can the
'world boaſt ſuch ſons?——The deep
'cloſed over them, and ſnatched the dear,
'afflicting, aweful object for ever from
'our eyes. We rowed away in ſilence
'and aſtoniſhment, full of the terrible

'idea, and little cheered by the proſpect 'of land, which we dreaded to find un-'friendly. Nor were our fears miſtaken: 'for when our laſt and utmoſt efforts had 'been exerted to gain the ſhore, ſome 'wretched fiſhermen who had at firſt gazed 'in expectation on our veſſel, and at the 'ſight of armed men, fled precipitately 'into the country, appeared by their garb 'and language to be French, and con-'vinced us that the proſpect of immediate 'deſtruction, was only changed for ano-'ther no leſs dreadful, that of an hard 'and tedious captivity: that of falling 'into the hands of men whom we had but 'now defied and vanquiſhed; and being 'made the victims of revenge for blood 'ſtill reeking upon our blades.

'We moored our boat, uncertain what 'courſe to purſue, whether to ſeek refuge 'from

'from our enemies in an unknown and 'tempeſtuous ſea, or by advancing for-'ward to reſign ourſelves into their power. 'It was, however, ſoon reſolved boldly 'to meet our danger. We moved on 'ſlowly and circumſpect; the ſun played 'upon our armour, and it's reflected beams 'ſerved as a direction to a ſmall armed 'band that had been alarmed by their 'countrymen, and now marched forth to 'ſeek their invaders. My companions, 'little diſmayed at ſuch a ſuperiority of 'numbers as they had frequently repelled, 'unſheathed their ſwords, now their only 'weapons, and ſtood, as men reſolved to 'defend their lives and liberty to the ut-'moſt. The undaunted ſhew of reſiſt-'ance perſuaded our enemies that ſome 'hoſtile deſign was meditated, and that 'greater numbers were approaching to our 'ſupport. They halted and ſurveyed us:

'their bowmen diſcharged their ſhafts; 'and three of my unhappy friends lay 'bleeding upon the earth, pouring out 'their lives without a poſſibility of aſſiſt-'ance, or the conſolation of a brave re-'venge. Our enemies, animated by their 'ſucceſs, ruſhed upon us; they felt our 'blades; but ſoon taught us that reſiſt-'ance was ineffectual. They ſurrounded 'my friends, and impatient to ſecure their 'captives, hurried them precipitately acroſs 'the plain; but in their blind unguided 'fury, left me at ſome diſtance ſingly en-'gaged with their commander, who with 'couched lance, ſpurred forward, and 'loudly called upon me to yield myſelf 'his priſoner, or meet my fate. Active 'and experienced in arms, I evaded his 'onſet, and with this good ſword (whoſe 'length and keenneſs had long been the 'terror of his countrymen) I aimed a

'blow,

'blow, which was received by his fiery
'charger. The beaſt grew furious with
'anguiſh, and impatient of command ſoon
'caſt his rider at my feet. But I, who
'neither inclined, nor deemed it prudent
'to purſue the work of death; ever ready
'to ſpare a proſtrate foe, and nothing diſ-
'poſed to provoke a ſevere vengeance on
'my companions; lifted my beaver, and
'with looks of courteſy raiſed the leader
'from the ground. I prepared to accoſt
'him, when, ſtarting back, as if unable
'to ſupport ſome ſudden and violent ſur-
'prize; he ſtood ſpeechleſs and motion-
'leſs, caſting his eyes to heaven, and fix-
'ing them on me by turns. Bleſſed Saints!
'——O noble Lord!—thus did he ex-
'claim; Twice my preſerver! How ſhall
'Les Roches repay thy exalted goodneſs?
'In the Iſle of Rhè! and thus attended!
'But fly this moment; I muſt rejoin my
'friends.

'friends. That path is ſafe: it leads thee 'to a place of concealment: expect me 'ſoon; and expect ſome return of gra-'titude.

'With theſe words, the ſtranger (for 'ſuch he ſtill ſeemed to me) turned haſtily 'away, in purſuit of his troop, now lead-'ing off their priſoners in triumph. Nor 'could I ſuddenly recover from my amaze-'ment. Mine eyes ſtill attended him, and 'marked his haſty ſteps, until he was loſt 'in the diſtant crowd. Then ſuddenly 'recollecting mine own danger, and his 'friendly counſel, I took the path to which 'he had pointed, and meaſured out the 'tedious way with limbs wearied and faint, 'and with a mind no leſs harraſſed by tu-'multuous paſſions. Still confounded and 'perplexed, my thoughts ſought in vain 'for that ſecurity, that concealment which

'the

'the ſtranger had promiſed; when turning
'mine eyes eagerly on every ſide in ſearch
'of ſome cheering object, they at length
'diſcovered at ſome diſtance a large and
'venerable pile. It's windows crowded
'with the foliage of their ornaments, and
'dimmed by the hand of the painter; it's
'numerous ſpires towering above the roof,
'and the chriſtian enſign on it's front,
'declared it a reſidence of devotion and
'charity. Hither I determined to bend
'my courſe, and to fix here, my laſt and
'only hopes of refuge. War had long
'taught me to ſupport toil and abſtinence.
'But, alas! my ſpirit now denied it's
'wonted aſſiſtance to my exhauſted ſtrength,
'and when my limbs had laboured up the
'eminence on which this manſion ſtood,
'with ſlow and painful efforts; when a
'few paces only remained to bring me to
'the entrance, nature could ſtruggle no

'farther; my ſight grew clouded, I fell,
'as in the arms of death, and fainted
'under the ſevere oppreſſion of fatigue
'and diſtreſs. Nor did my miſerable ſtate
'eſcape the regards of charity; for when
'my languid eyes again opened to the light,
'I found myſelf attended by one who
'ſeemed an inhabitant; and from him
'learned that I lay before the portal of an
'antient Abbey, where the brethren of
'the Ciſtertian order, employed their peace-
'ful hours in oriſons to heaven, and acts
'of humanity to their fellow creatures.
'The friendly door was laid open for my
'reception: the arm which had raiſed me
'from the ground, with the ſame humane
'concern ſupported my tottering ſteps, and
'led me through the winding iſles, to a
'retired chamber; where the charitable
'offices of my attendant were buſily em-
'ployed to provide whatever might be

'needful

'needful for reſt and refreſhment, what-
'ever might recal the ſtrength or com-
'fort the afflicted ſpirit of a wretched
'ſtranger.

'I felt the kind effects of his pious
'care; and though ſtill anxious and op-
'preſſed, yet relieved from the extremity
'of languor, and conſcious of returning
'ſtrength, I requeſted to be conducted to
'the Reverend Abbot; who in that in-
'ſtant prevented me, and entered, to en-
'quire into the occaſion of my arrival,
'and to know what further offices might
'be granted to a man, whoſe appearance
'and diſtreſs had by this time engaged the
'attention of the whole fraternity. With
'the authority of a ſuperior, he directed
'my conductor to withdraw, and for a
'while ſurveyed me with a kind yet pierc-
'ing eye. His aſpect, from which the

'beams of piety and charity ſeemed to 'break forth in a mild and cheering light, 'commanded reverence and love. I made 'the due obeyſance, and entreated his kind 'protection for a man who had drank deeply 'of affliction, who ſtood before him a mo-'nument of the tremendous diſpleaſure of 'heaven, torn, perhaps for ever, from all 'that he held dear, caſt on a foreign ſhore, 'without guide, friend, or refuge: yet, 'ſometime, no ſtranger to happier days.' 'Son! replied the venerable father, theſe 'gates are never barred againſt the af-'flicted: but far be all pollution from our 'walls! War hath been thy occupation: 'but hath that ſword been ever ſtained 'with the blood of a friend or brother? 'Hath no great offence odious to religion 'or humanity, cut thee off from ſociety; 'and driven thee away a wretched and a-'bandoned wanderer?' Impatient of ſuſ-

'picion,

'picion, I fell upon my knees before him,
'and inſtantly addreſſed myſelf to ſhrift;
'opened my whole ſoul freely, as in the
'face of heaven, declared my country,
'my name and quality; and diſtinctly re-
'counted my late unhappy fortunes. The
'good father heard me with exact atten-
'tion; heſitating and ſtruggling with the
'riſing paſſion, he uttered ſome words of
'comfort, while the big tear rolled down:
'nor did this mark of generous pity diſ-
'grace his venerable aſpect; although he
'laboured to conceal it, when he was to
'urge the precepts of fortitude and pati-
'ence. 'My ſon! ſaid he (now reſuming
'a look of eaſe and compoſed dignity)
'Nature obliges us to feel, but Religion
'forbids us to repine. That Power which
'deals out misfortune to ſinful mortals,
'will, in his own appointed time, accept of
'their penitence, and wipe away their tears.

'Thou

'Thou art the enemy of my country, but 'thou art a man. This roof ſhall not yet 'reject thee: retire and reſt ſecurely: the 'duties of my office call me: with to-'morrow's riſing ſun I will reviſit thee.' 'He departed; and deprived me of that 'momentary comfort, which his looks and 'voice inſpired.

'The couch now received me, but not 'to repoſe. My buſy thoughts, too long 'and too violently agitated to ſubſide into 'ſerenity and quiet, revolved the dreadful 'ſcenes in which I had been juſt now en-'gaged: ſometimes were they fixed on the 'fate of my companions; now, on my 'own danger: and ever and anon diſ-'tracted me with the recollection of my 'country, my family, and (O killing tor-'ment!) my wife. But I was not long 'permitted to indulge theſe ſad reflections.

'A

'A rude knocking at the gates ecchoed 'through the arched Iſles, and rouſed me 'from my gloomy dreams. Suddenly it 'ceaſed. Silence, ſtill more alarming, and 'anxious expectation ſucceeded. I ſtarted 'up, and graſped my ſword as it were in-'ſtinctively. I heard the feet of haſte 'approaching my chamber. The door 'opened, and there ſtood before me the 'Frenchman, whoſe life I had that day 'ſpared: and whom I now recognized ra-'ther by his voice, than by the glimmer-'ing lamp depending from the cieling. 'Have I found my preſerver? (thus did 'he earneſtly accoſt me) well did I divine 'that he would find refuge with my reve-'rend kinſman: and that I ſhould ſtill be 'able to repay the goodneſs of Lord Wil-'liam'——'Thou knoweſt me, ſaid I, 'haſtily interrupting him; twice, I think, 'thou ſaidſt, twice I had preſerved thee.

'All this is ſtrange, and would be unfolded.' 'Recal to mind, replied the 'Frenchman, that buſy day, when the 'gallant Earl of Marche was forced to 'yield before the Engliſh bands led by 'Duke Richard and by thee. The impetuous Mal-leon, he, whoſe envy of thy 'ſuperior worth and greatneſs had firſt 'prompted him to revolt from England, 'he who hated thy name, and ſickened at 'the report of thy valour, loudly defied 'and challenged thee: ye engaged, horſe to 'horſe, with the furious rage of rivals; and 'ſoon the ſuperior proweſs of Saliſbury pre'vailed.' 'I well remember it, ſaid I; 'and when the Count was ſinking to the 'ground, a valiant ſoldier ruſhed forward 'to his reſcue; and expoſed himſelf to all 'the fury of his victorious enemies.' 'I 'was that ſoldier, cried he: mine own men 'ſhrunk cowardly from me, the Engliſh 'ſurround-

'ſurrounded me, and when their ſwords
'were raiſed to deſtroy me; then did Lord
'William with difficulty repreſs their
'violence, and I became his priſoner.'---
'Here I interrupted him---'A priſoner!
'then were my intentions not duly exe-
'cuted. That fidelity and valour which
'prompted the brave ſoldier to deſy the
'terrors of death in order to preſerve his
'friend, deſerved more reſpect and better
'fortune. My orders were that he ſhould
'be freed and honourably conducted to his
'own camp without delay or ranſom.'
'And theſe ordess were obeyed, ſaid he;
'I was freed, I was honourably conducted
'to my own camp without delay or ran-
'ſom: and there did I loudly proclaim
'thy worth. The liſtening ſoldiers hung
'on me with rapture whilſt I told the
'deed: and enemies were taught to revere
'the magnanimity and generous humanity

'of England and of Saliſbury. O fatal
'zeal of gratitude! The Count Mal-leon
'whoſe imperious ſpirit could but ill en-
'dure the piercing wound his honour had
'now received; diſcomfited, diſgraced,
'and doubly conquered, now felt the moſt
'malignant paſſions rankling in his breaſt:
'tortured by the praiſes of the conqueror,
'he breathed revenge and fury; thundered
'out the ſevereſt and moſt tremendous me-
'naces againſt himſelf, the world, but
'above all againſt Lord William. O!
'would to heaven that this extravagance
'of rage and malice had even now ſub-
'ſided!' Here the good Frenchman ſeem-
'ed in no ſmall emotion, raiſed, as I then
'conceived, by the ardour of gratitude
'and indignation at the ungenerous conduct
'of his countryman. I endeavoured to
'divert him to ſome other ſubject, by diſ-
'covering an unwillingneſs of hearing my
'own

'own commendations, and by ſpeaking of
'the malice of my enemy with ſlight and
'ſcorn. 'Alas, ſaid he, thou knoweſt not
'half thy danger. In this iſland on which
'thou haſt been caſt naked and defenceleſs,
'Count Savourè de Mal-leon bears an abſo-
'lute command. If he ſhould diſcover
'thee (which heaven forbid!) what fortu-
'nate event could ſave thy life? or if
'ſpared, what ranſom could purchaſe thy
'liberty? I am indeed his officer, but all
'my cares and ſervices muſt be devoted to
'my preſerver. Thy remaining friends I
'have ſeen diſpoſed, with ſuch advantage
'as their preſent ſtate allows. Their ran-
'ſom ſhall be my work; but O, my heart
'bleeds for their noble leader! I choſe this
'ſilent hour, when darkneſs might conceal
'me from the eye of ſuſpicion, to come
'and warn thee of thy danger. Let theſe
'holy walls ſtill conceal thee: nor dare to

'brave the arm of revenge and malice.
'I muſt retire: thy friends ſhall be my
'care: and may heaven direct me to ſome
'means of ſpeedily removing thee from
'this accurſed place!' I ſeized the hand of
'the generous Les Roches, and attempted
'to expreſs my acknowledgement of his
'humane and noble friendſhip: but he
'haſtily broke from me with a tender and
'affecting prayer for my preſervation; and
'left me full of wonder and perplexity.'

SECT. III.

'THE lingering hours of night at
'length paſſed away, and the Mattin-
'bell ſummoned the reverend fraternity to
'their early devotions. Their pious cares
'for me were now renewed, their chari-
'table offices repeated, to oblige and com-
'fort

'fort me. The hoary Abbot returned to
'chear me with his preſence, and his
'ghoſtly counſel. I was witneſs of the
'comforts of religion and tranquillity.
'Happineſs ſeemed to me the native reſi-
'dent of the cloiſter; and my repining
'heart murmured againſt heaven that had
'marked me out for the ſtorm and turbu-
'lence of life. Another day was paſſed,
'and another night paſſed away more tran-
'quil and refreſhing: and I roſe with my
'thoughts fixed on the kind Les Roches,
'and in anxious impatience for his return.
'The day advanced, but my friend ſtill
'delayed his coming. At length the cha-
'ritable Abbot appeared, not with a front
'of placid ſerenity, but gloomy and con-
'tracted, full of anxiety and grief, which
'like the infectious blaſt that at once
'deſtroys the fruits of nature, filled my
'ſoul inſtantly with I knew not what

'dreadful and ominous preſage. 'Unhappy
'ſon! ſaid he; Mal-leon has diſcovered,
'if not the place of thy concealment, at
'leaſt that thou art concealed in this
'iſland: thanks to the indiſcretion of ſome
'of thy countrymen which diſcloſed the
'name of their commander. His jea-
'louſy points to Les Roches as the author
'of thy eſcape: vengeance is denounced
'againſt him; and this moment the good
'Les Roches lies in the damp dungeon.'
'For me! ſaid I: And is charity ſo
'great a crime? Is tyranny ſuffered to rage
'thus without controul in France? For
'me doth my kind preſerver endure the
'pains of captivity?'——With a look in
'which affection and authority were united,
'the father here repreſſed my emotion.
'Son, ſaid he, the time calls for calm
'and determined meaſures. In this place
'thou can'ſt not longer abide. Thy com-

'ing was not ſecret, and ſhould it reach
'Mal-leon, alas, I fear the impetuoſity of
'that proud Count might drive him to
'violate the ſacred privileges of our houſe.
'Les Roches, though now unable to aſſiſt
'thee, is yet anxious ſtill for thy preſer-
'vation. The peaſant ſent by him to in-
'form me of thy dangers waits to conduct
'thee faithfully to the veſſel prepared to
'convey thee to Rochelle. Thither thy
'ranſomed friends have already directed
'their courſe; and from thence ſome for-
'tunate event may conduct thee to thy na-
'tive country. Tarry here, until the
'ſhades of night may conceal thy depar-
'ture. Then iſſue forth: and may all
'good angels hold thee in their protection!
'Our prayers'—— Here pity ſtopped his
'voice; and filled his eyes with tears;
'whilſt I in broken accents laboured to ex-
'preſs my ſenſe of his goodneſs, my pity

'for

'for the kind and injured Les Roches, and 'my indignation at the baſeneſs of Mal-'leon. He ſaw my paſſionate diſorder; 'he entreated, he exhorted, and he re-'proved; till perceiving by my wander-'ing and inattention, that my mind was 'too buſily engaged to admit his ſpiritual 'counſels, he retired and abandoned me to 'my own reflections; and theſe were en-'tirely confined to the misfortunes of the 'generous and kind Les Roches. I ac-'cuſed myſelf as the ſole author of his 'ſufferings; and abhorred the mean deſign 'of flying, when I had involved my 'friend in danger. What can the malice 'of Mal-leon inflict on me (it was thus I 'reaſoned) if to purchaſe the liberty of 'my preſerver, I reſign myſelf into his 'power? To kill me!——That were un-'natural. The man I never injured can-'not proceed to ſuch an extravagance of

'calm

' calm unprovoked cruelty. Or if he
' could, my country could not long be
' unacquainted with my fate; and would
' (he muſt be well aſſured) diſcharge all it's
' vengeance on my deſtroyer. And ſhall
' the fear of bearing the inſult and triumph
' of my rival in arms, ſhall the tedioufneſs
' of captivity or the ſeverities of a priſon,
' drive me from the man who ſuffers for
' his goodneſs towards me? Shall I ſacri-
' fice his freedom, perhaps his life, only to
' haſten my return to England. ——The
' thought appeared odious and diſhonour-
' able. I inſtantly formed the daring reſo-
' lution of purchaſing the freedom of Les
' Roches, by delivering myſelf into the
' hands of my enemy; and ſpent the re-
' maining hours of day in that ſatisfaction
' and complacency which ariſe from the
' flattering ideas of ſelf-applauſe. The
' ſun declined; darkneſs gradually pre-
' vailed,

'vailed, and at length brought on the hour 'of my departure. And now, firmly 'and obſtinately ſettled in my dangerous 'purpoſe, I received the benediction of 'the reverend Abbot, with a countenance 'of fixed ſerenity, which he, good man, 'commended, as an indication of my re-'liance upon heaven. Touched with his 'goodneſs, I could not ſuppreſs the tears 'that ſtarted from me and interrupted my 'grateful acknowledgements of his chari-'table care, and his zealous prayers for 'my protection. Our hands were claſped 'in each other; our eyes rather than our 'tongues ſpoke the emotions of our breaſts, 'until the father, who firſt made the effort 'to repreſs his paſſion, urged the neceſſity 'of my departure: and while he ardently 'commended me to every holy ſaint, I 'iſſued forth under the direction of the 'peaſant my conductor.

'I

'I had not departed many paces from 'the Abby, when addreſſing myſelf to the 'guide, with a voice which beſpoke a de- 'liberate and determined reſolution, I com- 'manded him to conduct me to the pri- 'ſon where Les Roches lay confined. The 'poor man, who was no ſtranger to my 'quality or to my hazardous ſituation, 'expreſſed the utmoſt horror and aſtoniſh- 'ment; and in language rude and unre- 'fined, yet ſuch as denoted an honeſt and a 'tender affection, attempted to remonſtrate 'againſt ſuch a perilous deſign. I ſhewed 'him gold; but this had no effect. I then 'drew my ſword, and threatened him with 'the utmoſt ſeverity of vengeance, unleſs 'he inſtantly obeyed my command. Terror 'ſeemed to have a greater influence than 'entreaties or promiſes. He changed his 'courſe and called on me to follow. Thus

'directed,

'directed, I eagerly took the path which
'I ſuppoſed would lead me to my friend;
'filled with the high thoughts of obtaining
'his freedom by a free reſignation of my
'own. But after long traverſing the gloomy
'and tedious way, I found too late that
'either fear and darkneſs had miſled my
'conductor, or that he had purpoſely de-
'ceived my expectations; for when the
'dawn began to appear, we found ourſelves
'ſuddenly prevented from all farther pro-
'greſs by a deep and rapid current. The
'peaſant trembled: but I had no power
'(however irritated) to puniſh his error,
'or his miſtaken tenderneſs. Exhauſted as
'I was, with fatigue and inward agitation,
'my arm with difficulty took the caſque
'from my forehead. I dipped it in the
'ſtream, and drank deeply; then reſigning
'my feeble limbs to the dank ground, in-
'ſenſible of all danger, and indifferent to

'my fate, I ſunk into a profound ſleep,
'nor did I awaken till the meridian ſun
'flaſhed upon me with it's beams and
'rouſed me by the full force of their heat
'and brightneſs. I called on the peaſant;
'but he had deſerted me. I aroſe, and
'wandered ſlowly along the banks of the
'river, without purpoſe or direction: and
'ſo freely did I indulge the wandering of
'my thoughts, ſo far was I loſt to recol-
'lection, that I never once perceived the
'ſound of approaching feet, till I was en-
'compaſſed by ſix armed men, who proved,
'at once ſuppoſed, the guards of Count
'Mal-leon.—But, my friend, why ſhould
'I abuſe thy indulgence, by this minute
'detail? Night ſteals faſt from us. Let
'me not forget what thy age demands.'
'No, replied Randolph, think not of me;
'my ſoul is all attention to the misfortunes
'of my leader. Haſte and give to my

'impa-

'that one of them had raſhly diſcovered,
'that the Lord of Saliſbury, their leader,
'was ſtill in the Iſle of Rhé! This inſtantly
'kindled up a flame of paſſion in his breaſt:
'He affected to regard the tale of their
'diſtreſs as vain and fictitious; and expreſ-
'ſed ſtrong apprehenſions of a conſpiracy
'formed by his enemies in concert with his
'officer to ſeize the iſland. In this ſudden
'and violent fit of rage, he had command-
'ed Les Roches to priſon, and ordered a
'ſtrict guard to watch round the coaſt.
'The Frenchman, conſcious of his own in-
'nocence, exclaimed loudly againſt the ſe-
'verity of his commander; mentioned the
'inconſiderable number of the Engliſhmen
'that had appeared, and enlarged on the
'unreaſonable nature of the Count's ſuſ-
'picions. He demanded to know, if any
'man had dared to accuſe him; if he had
'an accuſer, he defied him to the liſts, and
'offered

'offered to prove his falſehood and his own
'loyalty in ſingle combat. Yet with what
'reſerve ſo ever theſe ſoldiers ſpoke of their
'commander, I learned clearly that his re-
'monſtrances had not ſo great an effect on
'Count Savouré, as the power and influ-
'ence of Les Roches, who tho' he fought
'under his command, had himſelf a nu-
'merous and formidable body of feudatory
'vaſſals, that attended him in arms, and
'were attached to their Chief with an ar-
'dent and invariable affection. It appear-
'ed plainly, that fear (for cruel natures
'are moſt acceſſible to fear) had determined
'the imperious Count to releaſe my friend,
'when the firſt ſudden paſſion of rage had
'ſomewhat abated, and no appearance of
'danger had been diſcovered. My guards
'informed me ſtill farther, that on this very
'morning, Mal-leon had repented of his
'lenity; and that his apprehenſions were

'again awakened, as he had received in-
'formation that on that part of the ſhore
'which looks toward the main land of
'France, another veſſel had been diſcover-
'ed hovering about the iſland, with an ap-
'pearance which fully warranted ſuſpicion.
'I readily concluded that this was no other
'than the veſſel in which my ranſomed
'friends had embarked, and which ſtill lay
'off the ſhore in hopes of receiving me.
'But without diſcovering this, I contented
'myſelf with earneſtly diſavowing, in ge-
'neral, all intentions of an hoſtile nature;
'nor could I ſpeak of the mean fears and
'inſolent ſeverity of Mal-leon but with a
'warm and paſſionate indignation. But
'here our conference was interrupted by the
'arrival of another body, who came, as
'they ſaid, to take charge of me, and diſ-
'miſſed the others from their attendance.
'I now expected to be led in triumph to
'the

'the preſence of my enemy, but ſoon 'learned that I was to continue for ſome 'time in my preſent ſituation. At this I 'ventured to expreſs ſome ſurprize. But 'the looks and words of ſullen gloom and 'moroſeneſs which theſe my new guards 'aſſumed, obliged me to ſurpreſs all far-'ther enquiries. I ſubmitted patiently to 'my fate. I was diſarmed, and confined 'in the cottage under the care of two ſol-'diers who ſeemed to command the party, 'the reſt of which they had diſpoſed at 'ſome diſtance, in different ſituations, to 'watch all approaches that might threaten 'reſcue.

'Night advanced upon us, and I was 'left to my repoſe: but what repoſe re-'mained for a wretch toſſed about thro' all 'the viciſſitudes of danger, toil, and di-

'ſtreſs, by the capricious cruelty of for-
'tune? A thouſand thoughts and a thou-
'ſand paſſions encountered each other in
'my diſtracted breaſt. I threw myſelf
'upon my hard and homely couch; and
'ſtarted up by turns; like the feveriſh
'wretch, inceſſantly changing, in fruit-
'leſs ſearch of eaſe. Nature ſeemed to
'lowr upon me, and to thunder terror into
'my affrighted ears: the loud ſtorm and
'the roaring torrent broke in upon the
'ſilence of night, and made darkneſs
'doubly dreadful. How did I then accuſe
'the ſlow and indolent advances of time,
'that tortured me with cruel delay?
'Oftentimes did I endeavour to compoſe
'my troubled thoughts; and as often did
'the terrors of the night awaken my diſ-
'tractions. Watchful and diſordered as I
'was, my ſoul was ſoon tortured with a
'new

'new and terrible alarm. It was now the 'dead midnight hour: on that ſide where 'my chamber looked down upon the 'troubled river, I plainly heard my two 'guards in dreadful conference, encouraging 'each other to the horrid purpoſe of mur-'der. 'It is now, ſaid one, the very mo-'ment of execution; he ſleeps: take you 'this dagger, and let us enter: when we 'have diſpatched this Engliſhman, my or-'ders are to plunge his body in the river, 'that it may be thought he has eſcaped: 'obſerve me well: and be aſſured of the 'favour of our Count. The dagger is the 'laſt reſource. No blood if poſſible: our 'firſt attempt muſt be by ſtrangling.' '——Accurſed wretch!' cried Randolph, with a ſudden and violent interruption: 'what was the crime of Saliſbury? Is ſu-'perior worth ſo odious and inſupportable? 'Can envy prove ſo bloody?' — 'Often-

'times, ſaid Lord William, have I ſeen
'death loading the fields of war with fright-
'ful carnage: and never did my ſoul ſhrink
'at his approach: but now when he ap-
'peared in the form of a calm and delibe-
'rate aſſaſſin, I at once loſt all firmneſs.
'The cold dew iſſued from every pore; I
'commended myſelf to heaven; and lay
'entranced in diſmay. A hideous interval
'of ſuſpence ſucceeded, for the murderers
'had not yet appeared. The torture of
'this delay was even worſe than death. To
'this I had reſigned myſelf, or even wiſhed
'to receive it. Still I lay in ſtupid expec-
'tation of the fatal meſſengers of death;
'and ſtill their horrid deed was ſuſpended.
'A ſudden and violent tumult recalled my
'dying ſenſes, the noiſe grew nearer and
'louder. I ſtarted at the claſh of arms:
'I heard a groan. The crowd preſt in
'upon me, and I ſaw Les Roches, my kind

'pre-

'preſerver, his eyes darting rage, and his 'weapon reeking with ſlaughter. 'There 'lies the wretch, ſaid he, who dared to 'lift his ſword againſt my approach.' I 'threw myſelf into his bloody arms; in a 'rapturous extacy of joy and gratitude, 'and juſt found breath to exclaim, Gra-'cious powers! am I then reſcued from 'the baſe murderer's arm?' 'Murder! cried 'Les Roches; for this horrid purpoſe then 'wer't thou detained here! But it is well: 'there wanted but this to confirm thoſe 'brave ſpirits, who feel and will revenge 'our wrongs. No priſoner now! No con-'cealed fugitive! Lord William ſhall con-'front his enemy; and take his free 'courſe, undaunted and uncontrouled in 'the fair face of day; and ſcorn the malice 'of this injurious Count. But haſte—— 'and let us join our friends.'

'I obeyed

'I obeyed the joyful ſummons; but 'firſt ſearched for my armour, which the 'guards, whoſe power was now expired, 'had taken from me. The attendants of 'Les Roches buckled on my harneſs, and 'I once more graſped my ſword. I iſſued 'forth as if reſtored from the grave, ac-'companied by Les Roches and his com-'panions, leading away my guards whom 'they had overpowered. And ſcarcely had 'we meaſured out the diſtance of an ar-'row's flight, when we deſcried a gallant 'troop marching towards us, who raiſed a 'ſhout of triumph at our approach, and 'received us with the joy of brethren and 'aſſociates. I expreſſed my ſurprize, but 'was ſoon taught the reaſon of this appear-'ance, and the cauſe of my ſurprizing 'change of fortune. I now learned that 'Mal-leon, like the unſkilful ſoldier who 'by the force of his own ill-directed blow

'is

'is oftentimes tumbled to the ground, was 'defeated in the purpoſes of his malice, by 'the blind and furious impetuoſity of that 'very malice. In his firſt rage of diſap-'pointed revenge, he had injured and in-'ſulted a brave chief; who had ranged 'his numerous adherents under the banners 'of this proud Count, and given their 'ſwords to ſupport his power. The gentle 'manners of Les Roches had ever com-'manded the affections of his adherents, 'and now, when they ſaw their chief thruſt 'into the vile dungeon, in contempt of all 'his former ſervices; and for no crime, 'but the ſuſpicion of having ſpared an 'helpleſs wanderer, their mutiny, like the 'noiſe of diſtant thunder, tho' not violent, 'was yet terrible; and ſtruck the ear with 'the threatenings of an approaching ſtorm. 'Mal-leon quickly perceived the danger, 'and endeavoured to correct his haſty error,

'by releaſing Les Roches from his capti-
'vity. But little did this ungracious con-
'deſcenſion allay the ferment of his vaſſals,
'little did their chief regard this extorted
'act of juſtice, as the reparation due to his
'injured honour, and little did it allay the
'ardor of his affection and ſollicitude for
'the man he now called his friend. It was
'his firſt care to employ the liberty he had
'regained, in my protection; and with a
'few choſen followers he inſtantly haſtened
'to the ſhore whither he had directed the
'faithful peaſant to conduct me. But
'Saliſbury was not to be found. Yet ſtill
'flattered with the hopes that my ſpeed had
'prevented him, and that I had already
'embarqued, he returned with his atten-
'dants, to whom he diſtinctly related our
'firſt encounter in the iſland, and his cares
'to defend me from the malice of my rival.
'They were taught to love me, to pity my

'fortunes, and to rejoice in my ſuppoſed 'eſcape. The infection ſpread among 'their aſſociates. I became the general ob- 'ject of their diſcourſe; when ſuddenly, 'the peaſant who had fled from me in 'wild affright, to inform his maſter of my 'ſituation, arrived and acquainted them, 'that, amidſt all my dangers, I had obſti- 'nately reſolved not to abandon my friend, 'but to ſhare his fortune; in deſpite of all 'the power and cruelty of Mal-leon. 'Scarcely had he informed them of his 'own error, and the place where he had 'left me, when the news arrived of my 'being ſeized, and detained until the Count 'might declare his pleaſure. Not the flaſh- 'ing lightening when it has broken in upon 'a foreſt of our ſtately oaks, ever raiſed a 'more ſudden and violent conflagration, 'than theſe accounts kindled in the minds 'of the brave ſoldiers of Les Roches. It

'was

'was at once reſolved for ever to abandon
'the ſervice of a tyrannical and revengeful
'Lord, and to reſcue me from his oppreſ-
'ſive power. But their Chief wiſely la-
'boured to temper and allay the vio-
'lence which threatened to defeat it's own
'purpoſe. By his perſuaſion it was deter-
'mined to act with ſecrecy and caution:
'to wait untill darkneſs might conceal their
'motions, and to chuſe the dead hour of
'midnight, to ſurprize my guards, and to
'ſnatch me from the cruel malice of my
'enemy. Eternal goodneſs! that directed
'their hearts, and guided their ſteps, be
'witneſs for me, with what gratitude I re-
'ceived my miraculous preſervation! No
'longer the helpleſs victim of fell revenge,
'no longer crouching under the ruthleſs
'arm of a ruffian, I felt my afflictions no
'more: they vaniſhed like a frightful
'dream, which the chearful beams of
'morning

'morning had diſſipated. And I now ap-
'peared as indeed a ſoldier, encompaſſed
'by a hardy band, in the gay trim of war,
'to which the riſing light gave new luſtre:
'ſtill farther irritated by the black deſign
'of murder; loudly encouraging me to
'rely on their protection, and to bid defi-
'ance to the ungenerous cruel Count.
'Nor was this confidence ſlightly founded;
'for I learned that by their revolt Mal-leon
'was deprived of a force, which fully
'equalled all that yet remained under his
'command.

SECT.

SECT. V.

'THEY now marched on, pub-
'licly diſclaiming all obedience
'but to their chief Les Roches; not as in-
'tending hoſtilities, but determined to
'retire from the iſland; and to demonſtrate
'the ſincerity of their declarations, the
'guards lately overpowered were already
'freed and courteouſly diſmiſſed; nor was
'even the ſurviving ruffian detained. Count
'Savourè could not look with unconcern
'at ſo alarming a defection in his troops.
'All his remaining force was inſtantly col-
'lected, and ſoon were we confronted by a
'conſiderable body led by the proud Count,
'that ſtopped our farther progreſs: and
'while each party drew up in formidable
'array, each was poſſeſſed with anxiety

'and

and expectation. On our ſide, a firm reſolution to ſupport our purpoſe to the laſt, was unalterably fixed in every heart, yet with humane concern and generous reluctance againſt ſhedding the blood of countrymen, endeared by natural affection, and a long ſocial intercourſe. The little armies ſtood for a while in a ſtate of ſullen inaction louring upon each other: a delay which ſeemed to declare that neither preſumed on any ſuperiority, and that both expected, and deſired a parly. This was at length propoſed by my friend, and readily accepted.

'The commanders on each ſide advanced with a few attendants: and firſt Mal-leon proudly demanded the reaſon of this appearance of diſloyalty and hoſtility. Les Roches repelled his accuſation by recounting the injuries that had

'been offered to his honour and indepen-
'dance; urged the ungrateful returns made
'to his free and faithful ſervices, by a vile
'unprovoked impriſonment, and declared
'that his ſole purpoſe was to withdraw his
'arms from a Lord, who had loaded him
'with wrongs and diſgrace. To this the
'Count replied, that the preſent appear-
'ance diſcovered clearly the neceſſity and
'the juſtice of his late conduct: that it
'now plainly appeared that Les Roches
'had united with his enemy and the enemy
'of his country, to tear the iſland from
'him; and that far from having oppreſſed
'or injured him, nothing but his own
'miſtaken lenity had enabled a falſe
'Frenchman to proceed in this traiterous
'deſign. For this had he reſcued from
'him the man who had baſely ſtolen upon
'his territory, to corrupt his dependants,
'and to arm them againſt their Lord; for

'this

'this he had murdered his officer, who 'gallantly oppoſed his unjuſt attempt; and 'for this he now ſtood in arms, ready to 'ſacrifice his kinſmen and countrymen, to 'the treacherous purpoſe of an Engliſh-'man, who did not dare to meet him 'bravely in the field, but laboured to de-'ſtroy him by the ſecret practices of fraud 'and circumvention.

'To this, my friend anſwered with a 'generous warmth, That as my ſoul was 'incapable of a baſe deſign, ſo my manner 'of coming into the iſland plainly removed 'all ſuſpicions of any attempt againſt his 'government: that, caſt as I was upon his 'ſhore, helpleſs and unattended by any 'numbers that could create the leaſt fear, 'my endeavours had ſolely been exerted to 'elude his ſearch, and to regain my native 'country: that all his own offence had

'been an endeavour, tho' fruitleſs, to fa-
'vour the ſecret retreat of a noble enemy
'to whom he owed his life and liberty;
'nor could he repent of his grateful efforts,
'when no ranſom was to be accepted, no
'captivity or reſtraint was deemed ſuffici-
'ently ſevere, for a noble, generous, and
'unhappy Lord; when the ruffian had been
'hired to ſhed his blood, and in the dead
'hour of night dared to lift the murderous
'dagger againſt his unoffending, unſuſ-
'pecting innocence.

'Suſpicion, grief and indignation now
'raiſed a confuſed murmur among the at-
'tendants of Mal-leon; the ſame impreſ-
'ſions, together with the ſtory of intended
'murder, quickly reached their aſſociates
'and ſpread contagiouſly thro' their lines.
'While the anguiſh of confuſion, ſhame,
'revenge, and diſappointment, turned the

'aſpect of Count Savouré to ghaſtly pale.
'Yet, dreading the effects of this diſcovery,
'he ſoon endeavoured to aſſume a look of
'compoſure and conſcious integrity; ex-
'claimed loudly againſt the infamous con-
'trivance to deſtroy his honour, and ve-
'hemently diſavowed all intentions, but
'ſuch as were fully warranted by the laws
'of honourable war. This declaration
'ſilenced the diſorder in his troops; whoſe
'honeſt hearts could not without regret be-
'lieve their general guilty of ſo black an
'attempt: he warmly repeated his pro-
'feſſions of innocence; and called for the
'ſoldier ſaid to be accomplice to him in
'whoſe breaſt Les Roches had plunged his
'ſword. The ſteady villain now ſtood
'forth, and aſſumed ſuch a countenance as
'effectually concealed his falſehood from
'every human eye. In the face of both
'the armies, falling upon his knees and

'lifting his eyes towards heaven, he called
'on every ſaint to bear witneſs to his inno-
'cence, and with horrid imprecations of
'the divine wrath, declared, that the only
'orders of his Lord had been to treat their
'priſoner with reſpect and care befitting an
'illuſtrious ſoldier. The conſtancy and
'the fair appearance of ingenuous ſincerity
'which accompanied theſe ſolemn declara-
'tions, failed not of their deſired effect: the
'troops of Count Mal-leon were fired with
'indignation, and joyed to find that their
'commander had not acted unworthy of
'his own and of his country's honour; they
'expreſſed a violent and tumultuous rage
'againſt the author of this ſuppoſed calum-
'ny; whilſt the adherents of the good
'Les Roches were confounded and abaſed.
'Their eyes were turned upon me, with
'ſuſpicion and cold diſtruſt; the boldeſt
'among them ventured to break out into
'rude

'rude invectives, and to propoſe that I 'ſhould be inſtantly delivered up into the 'hands of their brave countryman, whom 'I had ſo baſely abuſed by my horrid im-'putations. My enemy exulted; my 'friend, tho' ſtill amply ſatisfied of my 'truth and honour, was perplexed and 'grieved; and the fate of Saliſbury ſeemed 'to depend on a ſingle moment of tumult 'and confuſion; when with an effort of 'deſperate reſolution I ſtepped forth, and 'both parties hung upon me with looks of 'mute ſuſpence and expectation, I recoun-'ted plainly and clearly all my adventures, 'ſince fortune had driven me to this unkind 'ſhore; my departure from the Abbey, 'with a full intention of reſigning myſelf 'into the power of the Count, in order to 'preſerve my friend: my being ſeized by 'the guards, and detained on the ſpot 'where they had found me, inſtead of be-

'ing conducted to priſon, or to the pre-
'ſence of Mal-leon; a circumſtance full of
'ſuſpicion! I deſcribed that dreadful night
'in all it's horrors, when I had been ſo
'wonderfully delivered from inſtant death.
'And if any doubt remained of my truth
'and ſincerity, I offered to make my ſo-
'lemn appeal to heaven. There! ſaid I,
'caſting down my gage, I am ready to
'prove upon that recreant Lord his vile
'falſehoods, and to aſſert my own inno-
'cence, and his diſhonour, in ſingle combat.

'Thou haſt ſeen two gallant bands cloſ-
'ing with each other; and for a while
'maintaining the conflict in terrible ſuſ-
'pence, preſſed and receding, recovering
'and preſſing, by turns, until one mighty
'effort determines the fortune of the day,
'and the whole tumultuous rout of van-
'quiſhed and victors, pour along the plain.

'Such

'Such had been the war of paſſions in theſe 'two parties, and ſuch was now the force 'with which both were hurried away. My 'bold challenge was received with an uni-'verſal acclamation by men too zealous 'votaries of warlike glory and honour, to 'deſire, that baſeneſs and falſehood ſhould 'be ſupported or concealed. Shame for-'bad the Count to decline this hardy tryal, 'and tho' appalled by conſcious guilt, he 'accepted my defiance. Les Roches, whoſe 'friendly cares never were diverted from 'me, demanded an interval of two days 'to reſtore my harraſſed mind and body to 'their native vigour, and to prepare me 'for the encounter. This could not be re-'fuſed: the time, the place, and every 'previous circumſtance was ſoon adjuſted 'as the laws of arms require; and each 'party drew off in ſilent expectation of the 'event.

'On

'On the ſecond morning, as I revolved 'my late dangers, and indulged the pleaſ-'ing thoughts of my fate being ſoon to 'be decided by the fair and honourable 'chance of arms, an officer from Count 'Mal-leon appeared before the place of my 'reſidence and demanded admiſſion to 'Lord Saliſbury. I received him accom-'panied by my friend. 'Count Savoure, 'ſaid he, thirſts not for thy blood. It 'hath been thy deſire to depart this iſland 'in peace: he commands me to acquaint 'thee that a barque is prepared, and that 'thou mayeſt, unoppoſed and unmoleſted, 'ſeek thy native land: he wiſhes not to 'detain thee, nor regards the honour of 'vanquiſhing Lord William as the leaſt 'acceſſion to his renown.' My eyes darted 'fiery indignation upon this meſſenger of 'abject fear. 'I defy his power, ſaid 'I, and ſcorn his friendſhip. I ſtay not

'here

'here by his permiſſion, and without his 'permiſſion will I depart. Thinks he that 'an Engliſh Lord will ſully his fair fame, 'and meanly ſteal away from honourable 'danger? Bear back my defiance to the 'man who ſhould entertain ſo baſe a 'thought. Tell him I ſhall here wait, and 'wait with impatience for the dawning of 'to morrow.' The officer departed: my 'friend embraced me with tears of joy, 'whilſt I felt my heart chearful and dilated; 'and from this overture derived an happy 'preſage of victory.

'The morning of combat now appeared; 'nor did I wait the ſummons of my friends, 'but impatient for the great deciſion, I 'prevented their officious care and ſtood 'before them in arms, demanding to be 'conducted to the liſts. Theſe were pre-'pared with every accuſtomed proviſion

'and

'by Les Roches, was yet left with ſome 'remains of life; the peaſants bore him 'to our houſe for relief, and ghoſtly com-'fort. There he expired; but not before 'his parting breath had publickly declared 'the dreadful purpoſe——but I will not 'wound thy ears with the horrid recital. 'Alas! thy ſhame is but too well known. 'If thou haſt yet the ſmalleſt remains of 'goodneſs, dare not by this combat to 'defy the award of heaven: nor longer 'purſue this Lord with cauſeleſs hatred.' 'My rival now ſeemed to ſhrink before me, 'into all the meanneſs of diſgrace, and 'abject baſeneſs: whilſt my triumph was 'more exalted, than the moſt ſucceſsful 'event of combat could have given. My 'eyes were lighted up with indignation, 'but my heart diſdained reproaches. Whilſt 'I embraced the reverend father, and free-'ly ſubmitted my arms to his direction

'and

'and controul, anguiſh, ſhame, remorſe, and 'envy ſeemed to tear the ſoul of Mal-leon 'with their united tortures; tears burſt from 'him, not the gentle drops of penitence; 'but tears of vexation, of diſappointed and 'detected malice. Silent and trembling, he 'ſeemed irreſolute for ſome moments: then, 'in ſullen and broken accents, he juſt forced 'out; 'I will not —— depart —— I will 'not fight with thee—my priſoner ---yet I 'ſeek no ranſom: retire from this iſland; 'and henceforth avoid my fury.' Here a 'loud ſhout prevented my reply. The ſol-'diers of Les Roches, by this time inform-'ed of the tidings which the Abbot brought, 'and which were no longer ſecret, haſtened 'to receive me with their gratulations; and 'whilſt they accompanied me to their camp, 'the baſe Count, followed by a ſilent and 'dejected party, marched away, and cover-'ed his diſgraced head in the receſſes of his 'caſtle.'

End of Book I.

BOOK II.

SECT. I.

THE good old Knight could not ſuppreſs his exultation at the final iſſue of this dangerous conteſt. He preſt he hand of Lord William with an affectionate warmth, and congratulated him on is victory over his baſe and treacherous oe, a victory much more compleat, much nore mortifying to his rival, than could oſſibly have been acquired by arms. But he Earl ſoon reſtrained his joy, by acuainting him that this event did not put n end to his dangers. Randolph once nore compoſed himſelf into a grave and

earneſt attention, and Lord William thu reſumed the ſtory of his fortunes.

'To retire from this odious ſcene of m
'calamity was now the great purpoſe upo
'which my ſoul was fixed. I had leiſu
'to indulge my wiſhes to regain my friend
'my country and my wife; and earneſtl
'entreated Les Roches to crown all h
'goodneſs by ſpeedily recalling my cou
'trymen, and providing a veſſel to conve
'us to the Engliſh ſhore. He expreſſe
'his ſurprize and concern at this requeſt, h
'urged the danger of attempting a retu
'without a force ſufficient to defend u
'againſt an enemy who could not be
'ſtranger to ſuch a deſign, and who
'deadly hate muſt prompt him to arre
'me in my paſſage. 'No, my frien
'ſaid he, attend us into France. South
'the city of Poictiers my caſtle lies: at n
'ir

'inconvenient diſtance from the coaſt. 'Thither permit me to conduct thee: and 'thence with a retinue befitting his great-'neſs, ſhall Earl William be attended in 'honour and ſecurity to England.'

'The apprehenſions of falling once more 'into the hands of malice and inſolent re-'venge, prevailed over my impatience, 'and determined me to embrace this 'friendly counſel. A few choſen followers 'were diſpatched to Rochelle, where my 'countrymen lay in anxious expectation of 'their leader, who informed them of our 'fortunes, and after an interval of ſome 'days returned with all conveniences for 'tranſporting the forces of Les Roches. 'Our embarkation wore a gay and gallant 'aſpect, conducted with chearfulneſs and 'zeal, without fear of danger or controul. 'The laſt veſſel had now received my friend

'and me, and was on the point of leaving
'the ſhore; when we diſcovered a ſoldier
'haſtening down towards us, and with
'extended arms entreating to be received.
'We demanded his name, and the reaſon
'of his extraordinary appearance. 'Alas!'
'cried he with that abaſement which marks
'out calamity and oppreſſion; 'but
'yeſterday the officer of Mal-leon, favoured
'and honoured by my leader; now, the
'victim of his wild revenge, unleſs your
'protection ſhall deign to ſhield the unfor-
'tunate D'Aumont.' Here our attention
'was awakened, and I ſoon diſcovered
'that he was that meſſenger who the morn-
'ing before our intended combat had ac-
'coſted me with thoſe overtures which fear
'had extorted from Mal-leon. As he
'ſtood upon the beach, with the paſſionate
'warmth of a ſincere and deeply-pierced
'mind, the ſoldier thus proceeded. 'When

'inſolent

'inſolent revenge and cruelty point their
'ungenerous fury againſt a valiant but un-
'fortunate rival, what heart muſt not be
'moved; and what brave ſon of war can
'conceal his indignation? Let the coward
'diſſemble his emotions: alas I have not
'learned his virtue, nor know I that mean
'reſerve which he calls prudence. Lord
'Saliſbury is the enemy of Count Savoure,
'but a gallant and an honourable enemy.
'Let me ever emulate his exalted virtues,
'and ſcorn the baſe and cruel envy that
'would oppreſs them. We were ſoon no
'ſtrangers to his fortunes; and while the
'abject minions of a proud Lord ſuppreſſed
'their pity; my thoughts were not ſo
'obedient to controul; they forced their
'way boldly: and ſurprized my fellow
'ſoldiers with the moſt ardent expreſſions
'of indignation at the malice of our leader,
'whoſe flatterers treaſured up the dan-

'gerous diſcourſe, and failed not to con-
'vey it faithfully to his ear. And how
'D'Aumont was marked out for deſtruc-
'tion: when rage and vengeance were ready
'to ſeize me; I fled. If my ſervices may
'merit your protection, uſe them, and
'ſave me from ruin. Should Savourè ſpare
'and forgive me; witneſs, ye holy angels!
'this arm ſhall never draw it's weapon for
'that diſhonourable Lord. No! if I am
'abandoned, let me wander in diſgraceful
'obſcurity, let me feel the hard hand of
'want and poverty, or let me die rather
'than be made, perhaps, the miniſter of
'bloody cruelty on ſome brave ſoldier,
'who hath become odious by his virtues.'
'—— Dangerous hypocriſy! how exactly
'canſt thou aſſume the faireſt ſemblances
'of goodneſs! O why ſhould generous and
'ingenuous minds be more particularly
'the prey of thine accurſed artifice? ——
'We

'We received him without the leaſt dif-
'ficulty or ſuſpicion; and his wiley arts
'of inſinuation not only wrought us to
'pity, but ſoon commanded our affections
'and implicit confidence. On me his at-
'tention was perpetually engaged, ever
'officious in performing all the little offices
'which beſpoke reſpect and love. His
'tears flowed inſtantly at the mention of
'my misfortunes; his eyes were lighted
'up with indignation, at the very name of
'my enemy. If we ſpoke of his cruelty,
'he trembled; if of his cowardice, he
'ſmiled with contempt, or frowned with
'ſtern abhorrence. In a word, the ardor of
'his affection ſeemed not ſo much the effect
'of humanity, as of a long, an intimate
'and tender friendſhip. Les Roches ad-
'mired the virtues of this D'Aumont:
'nor could my heart refuſe it's full return
'of affection and gratitude to ſuch exalted

'goodneſs. D'Aumont became our friend
'and counſellor: he ſhared our thoughts
'and directed our actions.

'We were now happily arrived at
'Rochelle, where I embraced my country-
'men, whoſe ſuſpence and apprehenſions
'were at length diſpelled. Filled with joy
'and gay expectations, we all advanced
'forward towards the domain of our kind
'protector, confident of comfort and ſe-
'curity under his hoſpitable roof. His
'followers, no longer deeming their ſervices
'neceſſary to their Lord, and impatient to
'reviſit their ſeveral habitations, ſeparated
'in their march; and left us, not wholly
'unattended, but at the head of an incon-
'ſiderable body, when we at length arrived
'at the caſtle of Les Roches. Here we
'had been taught to expect the cheerful
'welcome of affection; and here we now
'looked

'looked for joy and congratulation, the 'kind greetings of friends, and the officious 'cares of domeſtics. But alas! we had 'entered the manſion of ſorrow. On every 'face ſat ſilent grief and conſternation, and 'chilled our ſouls with terrible apprehen-'ſions. My friend caſt his eyes round 'with the moſt earneſt anxiety; ſometimes 'they turned on me; now on his attendants. 'At length he ruſhed precipitately from us, 'and traverſed the apartments, as if in 'ſearch of ſomething particularly dear to 'him. I looked upon D'Aumont, who 'ſeemed equally aſtoniſhed and equally un-'informed of the cauſe of this ſtrange diſ-'order. Some few broken exclamations 'of ſurprize and ſollicitude were all that 'my tongue could utter. Tortured with 'expectation, and impatience to know the 'work that fortune threatened, I eagerly 'waited the return of my friend, certain

'to

'to receive the news of ſome calamity, but 'utterly incapable of forming the leaſt con-'jecture of it's nature, circumſtances or 'extent. Les Roches prolonged his ab-'ſence to a tedious and afflicting length. 'At laſt a domeſtic appeared, and called 'for D'Aumont; who, as he departed, 'turned upon me with a look of ſurprize 'and concern, then vaniſhed, and left me 'to all the torture of uncertainty. A thou-'ſand extravagant conjectures did my fancy 'form, and reject by turns. My country-'men, equally perplexed and agitated, 'gazed on me and on each other in ſilent 'aſtoniſhment. 'Good heaven! what new 'wonders! for what are we reſerved!' 'Thus did I exclaim; and in that moment 'ſome attendants entered, and with court-'eous and gentle demeanour inviting us to 'follow, conducted us to ſeveral chambers 'where refreſhment was provided with all

'hoſpitable

'hoſpitable care; yet in all the ſilence and 'ſolemnity of ſorrow. Thrice did I eſſay 'to ſpeak my wonder, and as often did 'fear ſuppreſs my voice. Still my friend 'delayed his appearance: but after a tedious 'and diſtracting interval, D'Aumont at 'length ſtood before me, with an aſpect 'which redoubled all that horror which my 'ſoul had for ſome time felt. I eagerly 'enquired about Les Roches; Alas, ſaid he, 'I know not what ſudden gloom hath 'poſſeſſed this Baron. He hath long ſince 'departed with a few attendants: on me 'devolves the command of this caſtle. I 'am now his officer, and muſt implicitly 'obey his orders: and his orders are, that 'the Lord of Saliſbury ſhould be enter-'tained with all due honours: a priſoner 'indeed, but a noble priſoner, the rigours 'of his confinement muſt be duly allayed, 'by reſpect and careful attention.' I ſtarted,

'and

'and exclaimed —— 'Priſoner! Confine-
'ment! Explain this wonder.' 'Such,
'ſaid he, are the commands of Les Roches.
'This chamber muſt content thee. The
'guards who are to confine thee within
'theſe bounds are enjoyned the ſtricteſt
'vigilance, yet with due deference and care
'to do thee ſervice.' 'Do I dream? cried I,
'is this real? is this my hoſpitable recep-
'tion?' Then preſſing the hand of D'Au-
'mont, whoſe dejected looks ſeemed to
'promiſe ſympathy, and tender pity, I
'eagerly urged him to give me the whole
'ſtory of this ſurprizing change. Again
'indulging my diſtractions; 'Is Les Roches
'falſe to me? ſaid I. O no, it cannot be;
'the good, the tender, the affectionate
'Les Roches, my friend, my preſerver?
'Do not wrong his virtues. It cannot be.
'Where is he? why delays he? O wretch,
'why doſt thou torment my ſoul with
'idle terrors.' 'The

'The Frenchman appeared violently 'moved at my diſorder. His tears (for he 'could command tears) flowed freely; his 'ſighs were deep and frequent; and his 'voice broken and interrupted: at length, 'as if recollecting ſome ſhare of reaſon and 'calm reflection, 'Unhappy Lord! ſaid he, 'too truly have I declared thy ſituation. 'But what hath moved Les Roches to this, 'or for what fortunes Earl William is re-'ſerved, alas, is yet a ſecret to D'Aumont. 'Too true it is that ſome extraordinary 'event hath called away the Lord of this 'place. Perhaps he hath found it neceſſary 'to deliver thee back into the power of 'Mal-leon; perhaps he hath reſcued thee 'from the rage of that proud Count, that 'he may have the glory of diſplaying to 'his countrymen an illuſtrious captive won 'by himſelf. But I fear his virtue moſt. 'Yes! it muſt be ſo. He hath indeed

'preſerved thee from the treacherous attempts of baſe envy, but his duty to his Prince and to his country forbids him to reſtore to England the champion that hath fought her battles againſt France. O rigid ſenſe of duty, that thus tears aſunder the bands of nature and friendſhip. Happy D'Aumont, whoſe ſoul aſpires not to ſuch high unfeeling virtue! who cannot reſiſt the tender ſollicitations of pity! Let me ever indulge the kind emotion, uncontrouled by rigorous ſcruples, or ſplendid notions of duty, too ſevere and too exalted for humanity.'

'Theſe ſuggeſtions exactly anſwered to his purpoſe. My ſoul was too much diſordered to examine them by the rules of calm deliberate reaſon; and the emotion which he aſſumed, increaſed my inward tumult, and gave him entire poſſeſ-

'ſion

'ſion of my heart. In this fatal moment,
'the tenderneſs, the zeal, the ſollicitude,
'the ſufferings of Les Roches all vaniſhed
'from my thoughts. I had even forgotten
'the confuſion which appeared in his caſtle
'on our arrival, and his own ſurprize and
'concern. I had forgotten that ſome un-
'expected event muſt have torn him from
'me. I imputed his abſence to no other
'cauſe but the ſhame of encountering the
'looks and reproaches of a man whom he
'had betrayed: and all confuſed and
'diſtracted as I was, reſigned myſelf en-
'tirely to the influence of this new friend,
'whoſe power was like that of thoſe infernal
'imps who, they ſay, command the winds
'to roar or be ſtill, and the waves to ſwell
'or to ſubſide, as their wicked purpoſes re-
'quire. As he depreſſed or roufed me, I
'melted into grief, or raged in all the vio-
'lence

'lence of vain and impotent indignation. 'I now conſidered myſelf as an helpleſs 'prey, doomed to inevitable deſtruction, 'ſurrounded on all ſides by my hunters, 'and fatally lured to their toils. Nor was 'D'Aumont at all ſollicitous to diſpel my 'fears. He expatiated on the horrors of 'a dungeon, on the wretchedneſs of cap-'tivity, the cruel tyranny of exaſperated 'enemies and rivals, the loſs of friends 'and honours; years of bondage ſpent in 'gloomy ſolitude, in uſeleſs inaction; the 'gazing curioſity of the baſe and ignoble, 'the inſolence and triumphant ſcorn of the 'coward, who had perhaps trembled at my 'ſword, and fled from my arm in battle: 'then, as if afraid to dwell upon the terrible 'idea, he juſt hinted at the tears of my 'friends, and the ſorrows of an helpleſs 'widowed wife.

'Haſt

'Haſt thou never heard that the enemy
'of mankind oftentimes preſents ſhocking
'and frightful phantoms before the eyes
'of the holy hermit, in order to diſtract
'his thoughts and to confound his pur-
'poſes? Such were the arts by which this
'Frenchman practiſed upon my ſoul. I ſtart-
'ed up in a ſudden fit of fury and extrava-
'gance. I curſed my own blindneſs and folly,
'that had betrayed me into the power of
'my enemies; and when I had once eſcaped,
'had ſeduced me into France, inſtead of
'ſteering directly for the ſhore of England.
'Then madly ſeizing D'Aumont, I thun-
'dered out terrible execrations on his head,
'and wild menaces of vengeance, as an
'accomplice in curſed treachery. He
'trembled; and with ſilent looks and tears
'ſeemed kindly to reproach my unjuſt
'ſuſpicions: then, in broken and imperfect
'words, appeared to ſtruggle with his

'paſſions, and complained of the wrong
'done to his friendſhip. I inſtantly melted
'into all the tenderneſs of grief and affec-
'tion: and ardently embracing the French-
'man, I acknowledged my error, and
'requeſted his aſſiſtance and council, in
'this my dangerous ſituation. 'Alas!'
'ſaid he, if I am true to Saliſbury, I muſt
'betray Les Roches. Hard ſituation for
'the ſoldier, who owes exact obedience to
'the dictates of duty and honour. But
'too well I feel that my heart is not
'ſecured againſt the aſſaults of pity.
'Yes, I am thine! and wholly thine!
'Here he claſped me in his arms; and
'thus proceeded. I muſt deliver thee;
'and one moment's delay may deprive me
'of that power. Here we muſt not
'abide. Let us depart together; and
'let me ſhare thy fortune. Some friends
'I have that ſhall receive and comfort
'thee.

'thee. I know the way which leads to 'the coaſt, and will conduct thee. 'Thence may Lord Saliſbury ſoon find 'the means of returning to his native 'country: and thither (for thou wilt 'not leave me to the mercy of our 'common enemy) ſhall D'Aumont at- 'tend thee. I heard him with eager- 'neſs, and implicit confidence. With- 'out pauſe or reflection I ſubmitted to 'his guidance; and in that very hour, 'we both departed from the caſtle.'

SECT. II.

'THUS had I raſhly ventured forth
'into a wide and unknown ſcene
'of danger; under the direction of a falſe
'guide, whoſe treachery was ſoon diſ-
'covered. It was night; and the moon
'caſt her mild gleam over all the proſpect
'that lay before us. D'Aumont repeated
'his aſſurances of friendſhip, ſpoke with
'chearfulneſs and confidence, encouraging
'me to hope, and to fix my reliance on
'his ſervices. I expected every inſtant to
'be conducted to ſome place of retirement
'and friendly reception. Sometimes I
'expreſſed my uneaſineſs, but ever and
'anon my guide practiſed his arts of ſooth-
'ing perſuaſion, and flattering profeſſions,
'to allay my fears; thus we proceeded for
'ſome

'ſome hours; at length, in our tedious
'progreſs, we paſſed by the ſkirts of a
'thick foreſt, from whence our ears were
'firſt pierced with ſhrill and lamentable
'ſhrieks as if from a female voice, and
'inſtantly afterwards, there iſſued out a
'ſmall number of armed men, who ſur-
'rounded us, and demanded our names
'and quality. My companion, nothing
'alarmed at this appearance, made the
'like enquiries on his part, and learned
'that they were the ſoldiers of Chauvigny
'Lord of Poictiers. I ſeek that Lord,
'ſaid he; when one of the ſoldiers ſurvey-
'ing him attentively, replied, D'Aumont!
'—I know thee now! what from Count
'Mal-leon! I ſtarted at the hideous name,
'and turning on my companion, perceived
'that the blood had deſerted his cheeks,
'and that he ſtood in violent agitation.
'But ere I could expreſs my wonder, re-

'tiring a few paces from me, he cried out. 'There ſtands Lord Saliſbury: my purpoſe 'was to conduct him to Poictiers: he is 'now your priſoner, and let him be quickly 'conveyed to your Lord. I ſtood con-'founded for a moment at this aſtoniſhing 'treachery, then quickly drawing my 'ſword, I ran furiouſly upon D'Aumont; 'nor was it without the utmoſt difficulty 'that the ſoldiers reſtrained my juſt ven-'geance, overpowered, and diſarmed me; 'then leading me into the wood, we joined 'ſome others of their body, who were in-'tently engaged on a ſpectacle of pity.

'A youth who ſeemed juſt riſing to 'manhood, of graceful form, tall of 'ſtature, and with limbs of perfect ſhape, 'lay ſorely wounded upon the ground, 'languid, pale, and bloody. Over him 'hung one in the habit of a page, younger,

'and

'and ſtill more exquiſitely beautiful, pierc-
'ing the air with lamentations, and eagerly
'employed in binding up the wounds of
'the fallen youth, with locks of comely
'auburn, torn from a fair tho' diſhevelled
'head. No ſooner had the ſoldiers pro-
'claimed my name to their aſſociates, than
'the page, turning upon me with a face
'which diſcovered one of nature's moſt
'lovely productions, ſullied and diſordered
'by grief, juſt exclaimed; 'O fatal cauſe
'of all my miſery!' then bending down
'again, as if diſdaining attention to any
'but one favourite object, reſumed the
'charitable cares of aſſiſting, and ſupport-
'ing the wounded youth; who by this
'time revived from his trance, and caſt a
'languid look of love and tenderneſs upon
'his kind companion. 'O Jacqueline, ſaid
'he, are we then prevented? But thou
'haſt eſcaped the preſent danger. Nor

'ſhall force tear me from thee, or time 'efface thy remembrance.' This was an- 'ſwered with deep ſighs and tender looks 'which ſpoke an affection ardent and power- 'ful, tho' controuled by the preſence of 'ſtrangers. Every word and every action 'increaſed my ſurprize. Utterly unable 'to conceive how any part of the diſtreſs 'I now beheld could be imputed to me, 'I attempted with all courteſy to accoſt 'the page; who, on the other hand, had 'no eyes, no ear, no voice for me. But 'how was my aſtoniſhed ſoul afflicted and 'confounded, when one of the ſoldiers 'caſually diſcovered that this page was no 'other than a young maiden, and daughter 'to Les Roches! Whilſt ſhe was buſily 'employed about the wounded youth, and 'with the aſſiſtance of ſome ſoldiers raiſing 'him from the ground, I turned to D'Au- 'mont with looks of rage and anguiſh,

'Wretch!

'Wretch! ſaid I, explain this wonder.
'Is this the work of thy curſed treachery?
'No, proud Lord, replied the falſe French-
'man. This youth is ſon to Count
'Chauvigny, whoſe priſoner I have made
'thee: but were he mine enemy, I am
'no murderer. Witneſs for me, that if
'my nature had been cruel, I might have
'plunged the dagger into thine own heart.
'What though I promiſed Mal-leon to
'uſe all my art to ſeparate thee from thy
'protector, and to betray thee into the
'power of the Lord of Poictiers, yet I
'ſcorn the baſe work of blood! I have
'uſed my art, and with ſucceſs: I have
'ſerved my country and my Chief, to
'whoſe hand the laws of war, and thy
'fate conſign thee, and to whom thou
'ſhalt be ſoon reſtored by his friend
'Chauvigny.

'I pre-

'I prepared to retort this inſolence, when 'the ſoldiers interrupted, and commanded 'me to attend them to Poictiers: whither 'we now bent our courſe, the wounded 'youth being ſupported by the ſoldiers, 'and followed by the ſorrowful Jacqueline. 'But ſcarcely had we proceeded a few 'paces, when another and a larger body of 'armed men was diſcovered, ruſhing pre-'cipitately acroſs the plain. My guards 'nothing doubting but that theſe were 'friends, took no pains to avoid their ap-'proach. As they poured down upon us, 'their leader caſt his eyes on me, and 'with plain marks of ſurprize pronounced 'my name, when inſtantly the whole party 'fell with the utmoſt fury upon my guards. 'They in vain endeavoured to ſupport an 'unequal conteſt, encouraged by the voice 'and actions of D'Aumont, who fought 'with deſperate rage. Impatient to take

'a ſhare in this encounter, I ſuddenly 'ſnatched my ſword from the ſoldier who 'had ſeized it, and flew upon my betrayer, 'but ere I could execute my juſt ven-'geance, his falſe heart was pierced by ano-'ther arm. My guard were at length 'wholly overpowered: a few lay bleeding; 'the reſt yielded their arms and were made 'priſoners, together with the wounded 'youth and his fair attendant, almoſt ex-'piring with terror and aſtoniſhment.

'And now I learned from my deliverers 'ſome part of that diſtreſs, in which I had 'involved the good Les Roches, and the 'danger which I had eſcaped. Hear the 'ſtory, as it was then, and afterwards un-'folded, ſtill more clearly. The delay of 'our embarkation from the iſle of Rhè had 'given the implacable Mal-leon an oppor-'tunity of diſpatching a meſſenger to

'Lord

'Lord Chauvigny, by whom he accuſed 'Les Roches of practices againſt his 'government, and of wreſting from him 'a priſoner of ſo much conſequence as 'Saliſbury. This Lord, fired at the ſup-'poſed injury offered to his friend, ſeized 'the caſtle of Les Roches, with the too 'common violence of a neighbouring and 'more powerful Baron; and carried off 'his only daughter, as a pledge for my 'ſurrender, if ſtill in the hands of Les 'Roches, or as a means of awakening my 'ſenſe of honour and gratitude, and thus 'obliging me to return, if already diſmiſ-'ſed. Hence the grief and confuſion of 'the domeſtics, at our arrival, and hence, 'the diſorder of my friend: who, dread-'ing my impetuoſity, and well remember-'ing how raſhly I had reſolved to deliver 'myſelf to Count Mal-leon, in order to 'gain his liberty, determined to conceal

'from

'from me the cauſe of this diſorder, and to
'try what might be effected by force of
'arms for the reſcue of his daughter.
'D'Aumont, with whom he conſulted,
'and to whom he ſpoke his fears of my
'precipitate generoſity, commended his
'reſolution; and as he prepared for im-
'mediate departure in order to collect his
'force, the falſe Frenchman propoſed,
'that to himſelf ſhould be committed the
'care of preventing me from leaving the
'caſtle, in his abſence. How he abuſed
'this truſt, thou haſt already heard: but
'heaven was pleaſed to make his treachery
'the means of my preſervation. Chauvigny
'who was ſtill further informed of our ap-
'proach, and of the weakneſs of our re-
'tinue, determined to make himſelf maſter
'both of mine, and of the perſon of my
'friend: and no ſooner had I departed
'from the caſtle, under the conduct of my

'perfidious

'perfidious guide, than it was again ſeized
'by a force detached for that purpoſe,
'whilſt another body haſtening to ſupport
'their aſſociates, accidentally encountered
'Les Roches, diſperſed his followers, and
'were only prevented from ſeizing him by
'the deſperate valour of my ſeven Engliſh-
'men, whoſe attendance he had required,
'and who now with difficulty ſecured his
'retreat. A number of his followers thus
'diſperſed, fled with precipitate haſte to-
'wards their private haunts, for preſent
'ſecurity, and to collect new force for the
'deliverance of their chief; and in their
'flight, proved my deliverers.

'They now ſubmitted to my direction,
'and invited me to ſhare their fortune;
'and by my perſuaſion they diſmiſſed the
'ſoldiers of Chauvigny, together with his
'wounded ſon. I embraced the youth at

'his

'his departure, who ſeemed confounded
'and aſhamed at the violence with which
'his father purſued a ſtranger thus ſuperior
'to revenge. His eyes were turned on
'Jacqueline, whoſe looks and tears expreſ-
'ſed all the anguiſh of ſeparation. But
'the daughter of my deareſt friend was a
'treaſure not to be entruſted to the mercy
'of an enemy; and ſhe was therefore de-
'tained however reluctant. My deliverers,
'anxious for our ſecurity, conveyed us
'with rapid ſpeed to the faſtneſs of an high
'and dreary mountain, where an humble
'cottage received, and the kind offices of
'honeſt poverty relieved us. And here,
'this maid, whoſe beauty created love and
'reverence in the breaſt of every beholder,
'informed me freely of her dangers and
'diſtreſs. Soon as ſhe had been conveyed
'to the caſtle of Poictiers, the young
'Chauvigny already no ſtranger to the

'charms

'charms of Jacqueline, viſited the fair 'priſoner, and endeavoured to allay her 'ſorrows. Beauty, when diſtreſſed, is 'doubly powerful; and when pity unites 'with love, no heart can reſiſt their im-'preſſion. This the youth experienced. 'His ſoul became totally ſubdued; nor 'could he conceal the generous weakneſs. 'He pleaded, in all the moſt affecting ac-'cents of a ſincere and ardent paſſion: nor 'did he plead in vain. The maid, too 'ſuſceptible of tenderneſs, and too artleſs 'to conceal her ſenſibility, heard him with 'indulgence, approved his worth, nor 'frowned on his love. Yet ſtill a greatneſs 'and elevation of ſoul, gave dignity to her 'female ſoftneſs. She demanded a ſtrong, 'and to a lover a ſevere, proof of his ſince-'rity. Reſtore me to my father, ſaid ſhe, 'then ſpeak thy paſſion. He entreated, 'wept, and conjured; ſhe anſwered as 'before:

'before: till at length, the youth con-
'ſented to the painful taſk of approving
'his ſincerity, by parting with the dear
'object of his paſſion. A habit was pro-
'vided to conceal the maid; and at the
'appointed hour, when guards had been
'bribed, and ſuſpicion lulled to ſleep,
'ſhe iſſued forth, under the conduct of
'her lover, and directed her eager ſteps
'towards her father's caſtle. And fatal
'had been the end of this raſh deſign, had
'not heaven wonderfully interpoſed. They
'had advanced conſiderably in their pro-
'greſs, filled with gay hopes, and inſen-
'ſible to danger, when ſome lawleſs rovers
'of the night, arreſted, and began to rifle
'them. The young Lord patiently ſub-
'mitted to their depredations; but alarmed
'for his dear companion, and anxious to
'conceal the ſecret of her ſex from brutal
'violence, he called upon them to ſpare
'the page, and with loud denunciations of

'vengeance, wildly aſſailed the wretch 'who was preparing to ſtrip his Jacque- 'line. A ſudden wound laid him on the 'earth; the forreſt echoed with the ſhrieks 'of the diſtracted maid; and in that mo- 'ment the ſoldiers ſent in purſuit of them '(for their departure was not long con- 'cealed) happily appeared in view, and 'drove the robbers from their prey.

SECT. III.

'I Adored the preſerving hand of heaven, 'whoſe influence had appeared ſo evi- 'dently in theſe events. The treachery of 'D'Aumont in ſeeking to deſtroy me, had 'opportunely conveyed me from the power 'of my enemies. The violence and op- 'preſſion of Chauvigny, had proved the 'means of ſending me deliverers, when 'fortune ſeemed moſt to frown upon me: 'and

'and of giving up his own ſon to my
'mercy. I was now at liberty, if an ob-
'ſcure and comfortleſs retreat could de-
'ſerve that name: I had delivered an
'helpleſs maid, the dear child and pre-
'cious treaſure of my friend, from the
'power of an oppreſſor: I was attended
'by honeſt and faithful followers, reſolute
'to protect, and zealous to oblige me:
'yet ſtill my ſoul was anxious for the
'fortune of the kind and generous Les
'Roches, whoſe virtues ſeemed to have
'drawn down ruin upon his injured head.
'Some emiſſaries I ſent forth from time
'to time, to learn his fate; but no intelli-
'gence of his ſituation could be obtained.
'His caſtle was deſerted, his friends diſ-
'perſed, he himſelf loſt in ſome obſcure
'retirement with my gallant Engliſhmen,
'or perhaps ſlain by the malice of his pur-
'ſuers. The proud Lord of Poictiers

'had in the name of his prince (unwarrantably aſſumed to ſupport his oppreſſion) proclaimed him a traytor; and denounced death againſt thoſe who ſhould preſume to aſſiſt him. Such was the rage and malice of diſappointed pride.

'I joined my tears with thoſe of the charming Jacqueline at theſe afflicting tidings. Weeks and months paſſed away in the tortures of anxious uncertainty. Tho' careleſs of my own fate, yet I felt the tendereſt concern for my dear charge; whom I conducted from one retreat to another, as the alarm of danger drove us forward, or the advice of our followers directed. My cares had now taught her to love me, as a parent and preſerver: and the magnanimity which ſhe diſcovered amidſt all her dangers and difficulties, commanded my reſpect and admiration.

'She

'She endured fatigue not only with chear-
'fulneſs, but joy: and as if from her in-
'fant years inured to poverty and hard-
'ſhips, ſhe ſeemed to have retained no
'memory of the eaſe and ſoftneſs of pro-
'ſperity; nor did the tear ever ſtart from
'her eye, but at the recollection of her
'father. A courage above her ſex, and a
'ſurprizing recollection and command of
'thought much beyond her years, never
'once deſerted her, in the moſt trying
'moments: ſo that, whoever beheld her
'manly garb, and obſerved her determined
'ſpirit, muſt have ſuppoſed that I was at-
'tended by a youth, not yet initiated in
'arms, but eagerly ambitious to become
'a ſoldier, and impatient to enter on the
'courſe of gallant action and renown.
'She it was who firſt propoſed the deſign
'of quitting theſe ignoble retreats, and
'endeavouring to find her father, now,

'when time had abated the ardor of our
'enemy's purſuit; and ſhe too ſuggeſted
'the diſguiſe which effectually concealed
'us from jealouſy and malice. By the
'aſſiſtance of our faithful adherents, the
'habit of a Palmer was provided for each:
'and thus accoutered, we ventured forth
'from our retreat; I, the father; ſhe,
'the blooming ſon; whilſt a few zealous
'and humble friends, themſelves diſguiſed,
'watched our ſteps at ſome diſtance, and
'waited to repel our dangers. Long time
'we journeyed on, and often were we in-
'debted to the kind offices of charity, un-
'diſcovered and unſuſpected. Oftentimes
'have I gratified the curious peaſant, whoſe
'hoſpitable door was opened for our re-
'ception, with the recital of hardy deeds
'atchieved by his noble countrymen when
'the chriſtian powers united againſt the
'infidel: and oftentimes have I repeated

'my

'my tale, to gain his confidence, and to
'lead him to ſome diſcoveries that might
'direct me to my friend. But never could
'we receive the leaſt information of Les
'Roches, or of his fortunes. Oblivion
'ſeemed to have involved him in her
'gloomy ſhades, deſerted, abandoned, and
'forgotten by his unkind, ungrateful coun-
'trymen; yet ever and anon, the remem-
'brance of his goodneſs, and the thought
'of thoſe calamities in which I had invol-
'ved him, recurred to torment my ſoul:
'nor was the melancholy idea ever abſent
'from the mind of Jacqueline.

'Our excurſions were prolonged to a
'tedious and oppreſſing length. Some-
'times the heavy hand of fatigue and
'languor preſſed ſore upon my dear com-
'panion, and called for all my care and
'tenderneſs: and theſe were again amply

'repaid, when the violent and complicated 'griefs that preyed upon my heart threaten'ed me with ſome heavy malady. Thus 'wandering on, and wearied in a fruitleſs 'ſearch, chance rather than our own de'termination led us to the ſea coaſt, where 'the wide extended ſcene diſplayed before 'me, awakened all my eager wiſhes to re'viſit England. Oftentimes did I caſt my 'eyes forward towards that ſeat of honour 'and ſecurity, and as oft, did they turn 'back on France, as if in ſearch of my 'dear and injured friend. Not my own 'fortunes only were now the object of my 'thoughts: Jacqueline, the child of my 'preſerver, the partner of his ſorrows and 'his ſufferings, demanded a ſhare in my 'ſollicitude. I had ſtill gold to bribe the 'ſailor to convey us to a harbour of ſafety. 'I could not bear the thought of leaving 'this precious pledge of friendſhip to the

'care

'care of poor and helpleſs followers; and
'yet my ſoul was pained, when I made an
'effort to perſuade her to ſeek refuge in an
'unknown country, and to reſign her laſt
'faint hopes of embracing a beloved pa-
'rent. Here all my addreſs was employ-
'ed, and every flattering ſuggeſtion urged
'to quiet her anxiety. All our diſap-
'pointed enquiries I converted into argu-
'ments of the caution and vigilance of
'Les Roches, which muſt have effectually
'concealed him from the malice of his
'purſuers. I ſpoke of my own influence
'in the Engliſh court, of the military
'power I could command: and conjured
'her to reſt aſſured that nothing was
'wanting for his protection but my ap-
'pearance in England: that there I could
'command authority and power ſufficient
'to ſupport his rights, and redreſs his in-
'juries. Her great ſoul was animated

'with

'with new vigour and reſolution at the 'thoughts of redreſs: and with a firmneſs 'which would have done honour to the 'bolder ſex, ſhe freely conſented to ſub-'mit to my direction, and declared her-'ſelf ready to attend me.

'Our two followers, whoſe unwearied 'zeal had not yet loſt ſight of us, were 'now employed to procure a veſſel to 'convey us from the land of danger and 'oppreſſion: as two pilgrims, engaged by 'ſolemn vows to viſit the lately erected 'ſhrine of St. Thomas of Canterbury; 'the fame of which had not been con-'fined to England. Some days paſt in 'expectation of their ſucceſs, an interval 'which was employed in comforting my 'fair charge, and confirming her reſolu-'tion. On the morning of a vernal day, 'we wandered forth from the charitable

'cottage, that lately had received us,
'to indulge our gentle conference without
'fear or controul. The ſun was climbing
'to his meridian height, and warned us to
'repoſe under the ſhade of a ſteeply riſing
'hill, whoſe trees nodded over us, and
'embrowned the neighbouring plain.
'Here we had not long reclined, when
'the noiſe of jocund mirth ſtruck our ears,
'and called our attention to two travellers,
'who lay at ſome diſtance, ſharing their
'friendly meal. I ſtarted, and liſtened to
'the well known ſounds; I heard my
'own native lays, ſweetly rehearſing the
'renowned deeds of Arthur valiant prince,
'the antient wars of Ambroſe the Armoric
'knight, and the triumphs of Britiſh
'valour. I melted into tears, (ſuch are
'the tender emotions which the love of
'country raiſes in our breaſts) then ruſh-
'ing impetuouſly towards the travellers,

'I gazed

'I gazed on them with aſtoniſhment; 'they ſprung from the ground, no leſs 'ſurprized, and I embraced two of my 'dear countrymen, and late companions. 'They ſurveyed me with joy and wonder, 'they acquainted me that their fellows 'were at hand; they aſked by what 'miracle I had been preſerved; but I at 'once ſtopped their enquiries by demand-'ing to know the fate of Les Roches. 'Their cold and mournful looks at the 'mention of this name, chilled the blood 'of Jacqueline, who had by this time 'joyned us. 'Say, ſaid ſhe, in breathleſs 'agitation, when, how, where did Les 'Roches periſh? Could not his followers 'defend him? Or did they deſert him? 'Perfidious men! Where were their coward 'ſwords, when the malice of his perſecu-'tors tore his poor helpleſs body? No 'faithful friend to defend him? No chari-

'table

'table hand to cloſe his dying eyes?' Here 'a flood of tears broke forth, while my 'countrymen wondered at her emotion: 'and eager to remove her ſuſpicions de-'clared, that Les Roches had wanted 'neither fidelity nor courage to defend 'him. 'Lives he? cried the maid; where? 'lead me to him!' And again reſigned 'herſelf to ſorrow, when the Engliſh-'men declared that they were ſtrangers 'to his fate, nor knew his place of re-'ſidence if yet alive. I interpoſed to 'moderate her paſſion; then turning to 'my friends, demanded the full relation 'of their fortunes, ſince treachery and 'oppreſſion had laſt torn us from each 'other.

'They had been perſuaded, (as I now 'learned) that I muſt have been ſeized 'in the caſtle, and that I now lay under

'the ſevere oppreſſion of captivity; as 'Les Roches had inſtantly acquainted 'them with the ſecret of his daughter's 'being conveyed to Poictiers, with his 'apprehenſions of my precipitate zeal, 'and the meaſures he had taken to pre-'vent any raſh purpoſes of throwing 'myſelf into the hands of my purſuers. 'They had attended him in his ſudden 'excurſion to collect his forces, and in 'the gallant act of defending him, they 'had been particularly animated by Fitz-'Alan, the man whoſe inconſiderate error 'had firſt diſcloſed my name in the iſle 'of Rhè, and who now fought with re-'doubled fury, to attone for his fatal 'imprudence. He it was who, when 'Les Roches lay ſurrounded and diſarmed, 'hewed his way thro' unequal numbers, 'and led the brave Engliſhmen to his 'reſcue. They took their courſe from

'his

'his direction, and conveyed him to the 'neighbouring hills, where ſecret and 'unviſited retreats received him, and 'where the vigilance and bravery of his 'followers guarded againſt the approach 'of fraud and violence. His own country-'men, awed by the denunciations of 'Chauvigny, deſerted their unhappy chief, 'the helpleſs and abandoned victim of 'fatigue and want. The woods ſupplied 'his nouriſhment; the naked turf received 'his devoted head, whilſt the fidelity 'and affection of his aſſociates watched 'his broken ſlumbers. Long time had 'they attended him from one retreat 'to another, thro' a ſeries of uniform 'diſtreſs, without any new or extraordinary 'change of fortune; 'till on one fatal 'morning, they whoſe induſtry had been 'employed in hunting for food, and 'they who had the charge of watching

'near

'near his humble couch, were ſtruck with 'confuſion and ſurprize, when they came 'to ſeek their leader. He had ſuddenly 'diſappeared, nor could their moſt diligent 'enquiries learn his new reſidence, or in-'form them of his fate. And now, im-'patient of their ſituation, and deter-'mined rather to yield themſelves into the 'hands of their enemies, than to waſte 'a tedious life in diſtreſsful and uſeleſs 'retirement, they deſcended from their 'mountains, and boldly adventured into 'more known and more frequented 'paths. Here they ſoon found that the 'hopes of regaining England were not 'yet to be reſigned. Purſuit and difficulty 'had ceaſed: they paſſed on unnoticed 'and unmoleſted, and at length gained 'the coaſt, where we were now all hap-'pily aſſembled.

'The

'The veſſel lay ready to receive us; 'we enbarqued with joy; yet ſtill cautious 'to guard againſt malice and hoſtility, 'I continued my diſguiſe. The winds 'were long unfavourable; and frequently 'were our ſouls terrified with the moſt 'alarming menaces of deſtruction. Twice 'did I embrace my lovely charge, in 'firm perſuaſion that I had taken my laſt 'and final farewel; and that the ap-'proaching hour muſt have conſigned us 'to one general ruin. Yet ſtill the holy 'ſaints denied not their protection. Courage 'and vigour unabated, ſucceſsfully con-'tended againſt the angry elements. Har-'raſſed, waſted, and oppreſſed with toil, 'we at length gained the cheering proſpect 'of our dear native ſhore. Here our 'ſhattered veſſel happily arrived; and here 'we repoſe our wearied limbs under your 'hoſpitable protection.'

SECT. IV.

THE Earl ceaſed; and Randolph, who had liſtened with exact attention, pauſed for a moment, in thoughtful ſilence, raiſed his eyes and hands to heaven, in rapturous admiration, and grateful acknowledgement of that power which had hitherto conducted his friend ſafely through this variety of peril and diſtreſs; then freely exclaimed at the envy of Mal-leon, the tyrrany of Chauvigny, and the treachery of D'Aumont, with all the zeal of generous indignation and abhorrence. His tears confeſſed that pity with which he thought on the cruel fate of Les Roches, and infected the Earl with a tender emotion of grief for the misfortunes of his dear friend and protector.

protector. He had not entertained the leaſt ſuſpicion but that his own misfortunes were now compleatly ended; that any thing more remained, but to repair to his caſtle, and comfort his ſolitary Counteſs; yet now, when reſtored to a degree of tranquillity, he again offered at ſome enquiries on his part, of his houſe, his ſon and wife, but was inſtantly interrupted by Randolph, who reminded him of reſt. The night was far ſpent: fatigue and ſleep, which the agitation raiſed by the recital of his adventures had hitherto repelled, now reſumed their power, and invaded him with double force. He retired, and at laſt enjoyed the comfort (to him long unknown) of peaceful and ſecure repoſe.

Age had made Randolph watchful. He roſe before the dawn; and was ſoon

joined by the attendants of Lord William, who advanced to greet their hoſt, and to acknowledge his generous cares. Their mutual ſalutations were cordial, and affectionate; the Engliſhmen ſeemed to have forgot their toils: luſty and ſpirited they ſtood; accoutered, and prepared to meet their leader, earneſt to tender their ſervices, and impatient to accompany his progreſs. Nor did they long wait for the appearance of Lord William. He had ſprung from his couch refreſhed and reſtored to life and vigour, and now came forth to embrace the companions of his labours, and to repeat his congratulations. 'My 'friends,' ſaid Randolph, 'bear with us 'for a moment. I have ſomething which 'demands the private attention of the 'Earl.——Yet——no——It need not be 'concealed from you. Your counſels 'may aſſiſt us.' Thus ſpeaking, he led

the

the way towards a private apartment, whither he was followed by the Earl and his companions, not without ſome degree of wonder and anxious expectation.

Randolph caſt his eyes downwards for ſome moments, and was ſilent: then turning them on Lord William, 'For what for-
'tunes,' ſaid he, 'this Earl is preſerved,
'I know not: but tranquillity ſeems yet
'to be removed to ſome diſtance from his
'graſp: ſomething ſtill remains to exerciſe
'his ſpirit. Raymond, nephew to that
'Hubert whoſe counſels govern our King,
'now poſſeſſes his caſtle. There, and
'through all it's diſtrict, he governs with
'an abſolute ſway.'—'What! cried Saliſ-
'bury, is my power expired! Do I in-
'deed live? Or have my rights been for-
'feited?——Where were my friends?
'Hath my Counteſs been ignominiouſly

'driven out by the uſurper? Is this the 'reward of my ſervices?'——Randolph here repreſſed his violence: and demanding a calm and patient attention, the Knight thus proceeded.

'We all know with what uncontrouled 'power Hubert rules in the court of Eng- 'land: how his ſubtile arts of inſinuation 'have penetrated into the inmoſt heart of 'our Henry; and now direct all it's 'motions and deſigns. Already too dan- 'gerous, he ſeeks but to extend his in- 'fluence and authority, and to heap 'wealth and honours on his family and 'dependents. Theſe are his great pur- 'poſes; and to theſe he ſacrifices the re- 'putation of his maſter, and the welfare 'of his country. To him was ſoon con- 'veyed the falſe intelligence, that Earl 'William and his Knights, ſeparated

'from our fleet in the tempeſtuous tumult,
'had periſhed in the deep. The King
'heard the tidings with kind concern,
'and paid the juſt tribute of ſorrow to his
'unhappy kinſman, and brave ſoldier.
'The crafty Hubert aſſumed the ſemblance
'of grief, whilſt his ſoul was buſy in
'contriving the means of turning this
'event to his own intereſted purpoſes.
'He ſeized the eaſy and complying mo-
'ment, when the King lay moſt open to
'his influence: he repreſented the cloſe
'alliance, in which Raymond his good
'nephew ſtood to the illuſtrious houſe of
'Saliſbury: he reminded him, that by
'the royal bounty, Lord William had
'obtained the heireſs of that houſe with
'her poſſeſſions, and urged that the ſame
'royal bounty ought now to confer this
'gift on him, whom nature ſeemed to
'point out as the true inheritor. In a

'word, he aſked this boon, that Ray-
'mond ſhould be permitted to wed the
'Counteſs, now ſuppoſed a widow, and
'to enjoy her ample fortunes and her
'honours.'——'Heavens!' exclaimed the Earl, 'this man admitted to her bed!
'——Am I ſo ſoon forgotten? What?
'not a few months of ſorrow!'—'Think
'not hardly of the Counteſs,' ſaid Randolph; 'her dignity of ſoul'——'Yes!' cried William again interrupting him, 'I know it.——It cannot be——proceed,
'and give me all thoſe ſtrange events.'
——'The King,' replied Randolph,
'granted his ſuit without difficulty. 'Go,
'ſaid he, command Raymond to prepare
'for his departure: let him ſummon all
'his addreſs and eloquence, to prevail
'upon the gentle Counteſs. No eaſy con-
'queſt, ſhe; no common prize! My
'grace waits on her conſent.'—'Conſent!

'im-

'impoſſible!' cried Saliſbury; when Randolph again endeavouring to allay the heat of his impatience, earneſtly united his intreaties with thoſe of the Earl's companions, and at length obtained a patient audience.

'Raymond,' thus the old Knight proceeded, 'was not ſlow to accept this 'gracious condeſcenſion to his wiſhes. Sup-'ported by the power of Hubert, enriched 'by his bounty, and attended by the flat-'tering followers of his proſperity, this 'Lord ſoon prepared all neceſſaries for a 'magnificent and ſtately progreſs. He left 'the Engliſh court, which now graced the 'city of Marlborough with it's reſidence '(for thither the indiſpoſition of our liege 'had cauſed it to be transferred) and at 'the head of a gallant troop of Knights, 'armed, and capariſoned in all their courtly

'pride

'pride and ſplendor, and implicitly obe-
'dient to their leader, he proceeded to-
'wards the caſtle of Saliſbury. The hum-
'ble villagers gazed on this gay troop,
'with ſurprize and pleaſure, were ſoon in-
'formed of their purpoſe, and ſoon ſpread
'the ſtory through all the neighbouring
'land. The Counteſs had already learned
'the melancholy tidings of her Lord; and
'indulged her griefs in ſecret: when,
'rouſed by the appearance of this retinue,
'and nothing ſuſpecting the purpoſe of
'Raymond, ſhe opened her gates wide to
'his approach, and received him and his
'attendants with all hoſpitable rites, be-
'fitting her own nobility, and the great-
'neſs of her gueſts. To Raymond ſhe
'appeared in all the dignity of grief,
'holding her young ſon, a fair copy of
'her beauty and her ſorrow. And (if
'fame ſpeaks true) the charms of the
'majeſtic

'majeſtic mourner, had, in that moment, 'too powerful an influence upon the 'heart of Raymond. Love came in aid 'of his ambition, and inflamed the ardor 'of his purſuit. With all thoſe ſoothing 'arts, which courts and their poliſhed 'converſe had beſtowed, he laboured to 'diſpel her gloom, and cautiouſly to in-'troduce the great purpoſe of his arrival. 'Long time he ſuſpended his declaration: '(ſuch is the controuling power of beauty 'ſurrounded by the aweful beams of 'chaſte and graceful dignity) yet in every 'interview was his paſſion confirmed and 'encreaſed. At length (ſo have we been 'informed) he ſpoke his ſuit with humble 'and anxious heſitation; and was received 'with ſurprize and ſcornful denial.'

Whilſt the Knight thus ſpake, a ſucceſſion of violent paſſions had diſtracted the

the mind of Lord William. His eyes firſt expreſſed an earneſt and tumultuous impatience. He trembled; and the blood retired from his cheeks; then ruſhed back to reſume it's ſeat, with double force, and glowed with fiery indignation. Again, his tender looks declared, with what love and gratitude and ſympathizing pity, he felt the ſorrows of his beloved Counteſs. Impatience and anxiety again ſucceeded; and when the Knight pauſed, his looks had grown great, and elevated, and a ſudden exclamation of triumph broke involuntarily from his lips. 'What remains,' ſaid he, 'but that we now go and reſume our au-'thority? What is wanting but our pre-'ſence to relieve our Counteſs from this 'importunate wooer? Come, my friends! 'let us haſte away. Let us break 'through that cloud of obſcurity which 'hath too long concealed us; and con-'found

'found the men who graſp at our rights
'and honours, with ſuch a precipitate and
'raſh preſumption. Shall Ela weep, and
'I delay to comfort her? Shall proud in-
'truſion break upon her privacy, and ir-
'ritate her grief, and do I not fly to re-
'lieve her?' 'Beware,' replied the Knight with looks of ſage and rigid caution, 'beware of violence! conſult not with thy 'paſſions. Thy Counteſs hath, I hope, 'maintained her firmneſs and conſtant 'purpoſe to the laſt. Should ſhe—— 'but I cannot fear it.——Yet ſtill Ray-'mond is in poſſeſſion of thy caſtle; he 'acts as Lord of thy land and inheritor 'of thy power. Canſt thou behold this 'uſurpation calm and unmoved? Truſt 'me, I dread thy impetuous reſentment. 'Raymond is proud and inſolent; Hubert 'crafty, dark, and revengeful. The in-'jurious never can forgive. Shame and

'diſap-

'diſappointment may drive him to deſ-
'perate reſolutions.——Alas, I cannot
'ſpeak half my fears.'

This myſterious language of the Knight, who, however he ſuppreſſed his fear, really dreaded a fatal compliance in the Counteſs, and formed the moſt terrible preſages of broils and blood, kindled up a ſudden flame in the breaſt of Saliſbury. 'Heavens!' cried he, 'if Raymond ſhould have 'already——I ſee the danger of my 'ſituation.——But let us quickly ſeek 'this invader.' Randolph now ſeemed to condemn his own apprehenſions, which he obſerved might ariſe from doubtful or miſtaken information. His retirement had rendered him the more liable to be deceived; and deſpair of ever ſeeing the return of his friend had made him leſs ſollicitous in his enquiries. However, he ſtill urged caution

caution and calm procedure. He adviſed that ſome friends ſhould be ſent forward to the caſtle to declare the approach of Earl William. 'This,' ſaid he, 'will give an 'opportunity to Raymond to retire, 'without the ſhame of encountring the 'ſeverity of his aſpect, who comes to 'drive him from his uſurped ſtate, and 'without provoking thee to ſome raſh 'deed of ungoverned paſſion. Then ſhall 'we follow; and peace, joy, and conjugal 'affection ſhall receive thee.' The Earl approved his counſel; and conſented to the deſires of his companions, who preſſed to be the harbingers of his approach. They inſtantly took their way: whilſt Randolph diſpatched his meſſengers to ſummon ſuch a number of dependants as might afford an honourable conduct to the Earl, together with the fair Jacqueline, who now came forth, not in her diſguiſe;

diſguiſe; but in a female garb, tho' not magnificent, yet better ſuited to diſplay her modeſt graces, and to give new luſtre to her beauty. It was reſolved that for a few days they ſhould continue with the hoſpitable Knight; an interval tedious and diſtracting to the Earl, whoſe mind was filled with doubts and fears; impatient to know more than had already been received from the imperfect intelligence of his hoſt, yet dreading to hear ſomething which might fatally wound his peace.

End of Book II.

BOOK

BOOK III.

SECT. I.

WHATEVER ſadly-boding thoughts were entertained by Lord William, little did they correſpond with that weight of anguiſh, which, by this time, had oppreſſed his wife; in whoſe caſtle, the inſolence and cruelty of Raymond and his creatures had taken their lawleſs courſe, free from controul. His firſt appearance had been courteous and gentle, befitting a noble viſitant: nor did he diſcloſe his purpoſe till he had gained the fair opinion of the unſuſpecting counteſs. Love and wedlock, when firſt made

his theme, ſounded like notes jarring and diſcordant, to the ear exactly tuned to harmony: and when he urged his ſuit directly, a ſudden flood of tears confeſſed her inward emotion, ſuch tears as indignation and diſdain force from the eyes of diſtreſſed greatneſs, and high-born pride. Raymond ſtood amazed: and vain were his repeated endeavours to compoſe her diſorder. At length, her paſſions thus found an utterance: 'And doſt thou know me? Haſt 'thou ever heard that the greatneſs of ſoul 'which hath invariably diſtinguiſhed my 'long train of mighty anceſtry, is loſt in me? '--One year hath not yet elapſed, ſince theſe 'arms embraced my honoured lord. But 'had the grave long ſince received him; 'had time dried up my widow's tears, 'thinkeſt thou that the widow of a Plan-'tagenet—But why talk I thus?—How 'knoweſt thou? What officious babbling

'ſlave

'ſlave hath flattered thee with the lying 'ſtory that Lord William lives no longer; 'that the great light of England is extin-'guiſhed, and that Raymond may now 'riſe and ſhine?—It is falſe—I will not 'think it. Yet, yet will I hope for his 'return. Should he find thee here, (and 'this thy purpoſe!) what could defend Lord 'Raymond from his reſentment? Thou 'knoweſt the mighty ſpirit of Earl Wil-'liam. Fly this moment; and tempt not 'thy fate. Nay, never frown! How 'would one ſingle glance of his princely 'eye confound that haughty confidence? 'Know, preſuming lord, that the ſlighteſt 'probability of his appearance ſhould ſtrike 'thee with terror.' Thus ſaying, ſhe turned ſcornfully away; lovely even in her diſdain; and ſuddenly left her ſuitor in wonder and confuſion: who, too deeply affected by her beauty, to ſubmit to this

repulſe, ſollicited, entreated, and at length rather forced, than was admitted to a ſecond interview. Earneſtly did he urge his love, and with all the gentle eloquence of a ſincere and ardent paſſion. Juſt to the deſerts of Earl William, he acknowledged his high worth, and his own inferior merit: but the hopes of his return, he treated as deſperate and unreaſonable, and exerted all his art to baniſh from her thoughts the memory of a man, whom fate had long ſince buried in eternal oblivion.—'Behold this 'boy!' ſaid the Counteſs, claſping her young ſon: 'in him, at leaſt, Saliſbury ſtill 'lives. And never can his mourning wife 'reſign the dear melancholy remembrance 'of his greatneſs, while this precious pledge 'of former love, this lively image of a 'noble and honourable father, remains to 'ſooth her ſorrow. Behold him! ſee how 'all the princely dignity of William al-

'ready

'ready ſits diſplayed in his youthful front:
'and wonder not that Ela never can de-
'ſcend to any other paſſion.'

Thus obſtinate and inexorable, the counteſs ever added ſcorn and reproof to her denial; inſulted the love, and ſtung the pride of Raymond; whoſe diſgrace was ſoon no ſecret to his attendants. Of theſe, the firſt, and principal in his confidence, was a man nurtured in courts; long practiſed in the arts of flattery, and the homage of dependance; trained to watch the looks, the ſmiles, the frowns of a ſuperior, to aid his pleaſures, to indulge his paſſions, to love, to hate, as he directed, with an obſequiouſneſs equalled only by the inſolence and oppreſſion which he dealt out with unfeeling ſeverity to all beneath him. Subtle and expert he was in the arts of fraud and circumvention; ever attentive to

his own private intereſt; patient, perſe-
vering, and ſagacious in the means of ad-
vancing it. His name was Grey. To
him Raymond unboſomed his diſordered
thoughts; lamented his deſpiſed love, and
the unrelenting pride of Ela, which threat-
ened to blaſt all his hopes of ambition.
The flatterer expreſſed the utmoſt indigna-
tion; and as if the reſolution of the Coun-
teſs had been unwarranted and injurious,
injurious to the honour and dignity of Ray-
mond, he cenſured him with an artful ſem-
blance of ſincerity and zeal, as if he him-
ſelf had been the cauſe of his own repulſe:
He accuſed him of indulging the perverſe-
neſs and pride of this high dame, by the
humble and abject ſtrain of his addreſſes.
He perſuaded him that in this place he was
now abſolute lord and inheritor, who ſhould
command, and not entreat, graced as he
was by the royal favour, and ſupported by
the

the power of Hubert. The ſlighteſt hint was more than ſufficient to enflame the pride of Raymond. He yielded entirely to the pleaſing deluſion, and already fancied himſelf undoubted heir of the houſe of Saliſbury, and maſter of its ample domain. The conditions on which the king had aſſented to his petition, were totally forgotten: and he now determined to act agreeably to that high character, in which his imagination had arrayed him, and to extort that compliance to his wiſhes, which his ſollicitations could not obtain. Every thing was diſpoſed at his command; and the domeſtics and inhabitants of the caſtle taught to acknowledge a new lord. To the Counteſs, he affected to appear, not as a humble lover, but an imperious ſovereign maſter. Yet, awed by her dignity and beauty, he acted this part, not without conſtraint and ſhame; and ſtill repulſed, and ſtill deſpi-

ſed, he required all the artifice and flattery of Grey, to ſupport him in his purpoſe. Yet, this extraordinary change could not fail to alarm the fears of the counteſs. With ſurpriſe and helpleſs indignation ſhe found herſelf the priſoner of her gueſt. Her uſual attendants were removed; and new domeſtics aſſigned, the creatures of her enemy, who performed the due offices to her and to her infant ſon, not without reſpect and care, but with ſullen ſilence and reſerve: and all her words and actions were free to the obſervation of ſtrange and unfriendly keepers. If Raymond ventured to appear in her preſence, (for ſtill he dreaded the ſeverity of her frown) with wild diſmay, yet with the dignity of injured greatneſs, ſhe demanded an explanation of this myſterious conduct: whilſt he only urged the neceſſity of an abſolute compliance with his deſires, and left her agitated ſoul to di-

vine

vine the fatal conſequences of a refuſal. Sometimes ſhe endeavoured to expoſtulate; to ſpeak her wrongs boldly, and to menace her oppreſſors; but tears never failed to betray her inward terror, and to diſcover a lively ſenſe of the weakneſs of her widowed ſtate. Sometimes ſhe called upon Lord William, and tormented herſelf with the remembrance of the virtues and renown of her loſt protector. Sometimes ſhe preſt her ſon with an eager and paſſionate fondneſs to her heart, and invoked every ſaint in heaven to ſave the precious creature. For him much more anxious, than for her own fate, ſhe formed a thouſand viſionary ſchemes to reſcue him from the oppreſſor; which, like fantaſtical dreams, vaniſhed, and left her to deſpair. Raymond, though inſolent and cruel, yet ſtill loved the unhappy Counteſs; nor could he behold her diſtreſs without ſome pangs of remorſe.

But his unrelenting minion was ever at hand, to condemn and deride his weakneſs, (ſo he deemed it) and to perſuade him that nothing but rigid authority and ſevere reſtraint could prevail upon the high mind of Ela, and reduce her to what his abandoned flattery preſumed to call a reaſonable compliance. Thus was her reſolution ſtill aſſailed, and ſtill unconquered.

But greater trials remained for this unhappy lady. Grey, whoſe mind was not diſcompoſed by paſſion, and who thought more coolly than his lord, ſeriouſly reflected on the neceſſity of forcing the Counteſs to give her hand to Raymond, in order to eſtabliſh his rightful claim to an inheritance, which promiſed ample advantages to his creatures. And when the proſpect of riches and rewards were preſented to his view, his rapacious ſoul inſtantly became deaf to all the

the calls of pity; nor was one ſentiment of humanity ſuffered to intrude upon his mind. The enamoured Raymond grew more and more impatient; and every hour lamented the inflexible ſpirit of the Counteſs, and her unalterable averſion to his love. His flatterer ſtill wore a face of friendly anxiety and concern; and, as if he lived only for his lord, ſeemed to feel the diſappointment as his own misfortune: and expreſſed that earneſtneſs for conquering this difficulty, with which men generally purſue their private intereſts. Raymond was charmed with this ſpecious ſhew of zeal and ſincere affection. He called him friend, guardian, and director; he laviſhly promiſed wealth and honours; and entreated him to deviſe ſome means of accompliſhing his wiſhes. Grey ſeemed for a while immerſed in thought: then, as if ſuddenly recollecting himſelf, he aſſumed a look

look of confidence and exultation. 'It 'cannot be!' thus he exclaimed: 'This 'imperious Counteſs cannot for ever prove 'inſenſible to the inviting voice of joy and 'happineſs. She ſees thy paſſion; and 'would enflame it by this affected delay. 'Or if her haughty ſoul be really unmoved, 'ſomething muſt be thought of——Ray-'mond muſt——yes, my ever-honoured 'lord, thou ſhalt poſſeſs her. Let me be 'favoured with thy confidence: ſubmit to 'my direction. For ſome days ſhun her 'preſence, for there thy weakneſs is diſco-'vered. Rely on my ſervices; and let it 'be my part to prevail upon her.'—— 'Go,' ſaid Raymond; 'to you and to 'your conduct I implicitly reſign my hopes. 'Prevail, and be great as thou canſt wiſh.' ——Thus was the afflicted Counteſs given up to the hands of inſolence and cruelty, without

without help or friend, without counſel or reſource.

Inſtead of the man whoſe arrogance was tempered by that reverence and love with which her beauty had inſpired him, Ela ſaw now before her an unrelenting, unfeeling vaſſal; in condition, ſuch as her ſoul diſdained to hold converſe with, and in temper baſe and brutal. He approached her with a rude inſenſibility to her ſtate, and to her ſorrows. Inſtead of pleading the paſſion, or the merits of his maſter, he proudly demanded her compliance. He called upon her to conſider his power; and her own condition: that ſhe was no longer miſtreſs in this ſtately caſtle, which, with all its wide extended lands, had devolved to Raymond; now the maſter even of her and of her ſon; and that ſhe had only to chuſe whether to appear as his conſort, in

all the luſtre that riches and royal favour can beſtow, or to waſte her ſolitary days in grief and abject dependance.

The Counteſs, though pierced with ſorrow, and ſenſible of her helpleſs condition, ſurveyed the rude minion in diſdainful ſilence. He repeated his bold remonſtrances; yet nothing more could his importunities extort than a ſtern command to retire from her preſence. He obeyed; but ſoon returned, and repeated his odious inſolence. In that moment her young ſon appeared, and flew with eager and fond careſſes to his mother. At ſight of him, ſhe inſtantly forgot her greatneſs: her griefs burſt forth in a ſudden and violent ſtream. She embraced him with trembling arms: and the boy, though unable to conceive the cauſe, ſympathized paſſionately with the Counteſs. The ſight was pitiful and affecting; but the

the hardened Grey felt only a ſhort and tranſient ſurpriſe. 'Is he thus dear!' ſaid he: 'know then, that his mother's obſtinacy may 'prove fatal to her ſon. The charge of 'him now belongs to Raymond. He beſt 'knows how to defeat all future attempts 'to diſpoſſeſs him of his rights.'——The Counteſs ſtarted up in ſpeechleſs amazement: and Grey turned from her with a ſullen menace, that henceforward her ſon ſhould be a ſtranger to her arms. 'Stay!' replied the Counteſs, pale and trembling with terror and virtuous anger; 'hear me, 'cruel man——Heavens! is it for this 'that we are made priſoners within our own 'walls; ſhut up from ſociety and relief? 'no acceſs for comfort or friendſhip; no 'reſource, no ſupport for our helpleſs in-'nocence? And did the bloody purpoſe of 'a murderer lurk beneath his courtly ſmiles, 'when Lord Raymond firſt entered our

'caſtle?

'caſtle? And dreads he not vengeance?
'Have the friends of William all periſhed
'with him?——At leaſt Heaven is our
'friend; and will repay the cruel deed.
'O! there is a bleſſed angel ever ready to
'preſent the cries of infant innocence be-
'fore the throne of juſtice, and to implore
'for vengeance on the arm that hath been
'lifted againſt it.——Seeks he our love?
'Miſtaken lord! little doſt thou conceive
'the fatal conſequences of extorting a feign-
'ed conſent, when the heart is ſtill eſtrang-
'ed. Cold indifference, diſtaſte, averſion,
'and loathing, ever watch round the bridal
'bed, and fright away all joy and ſocial
'comforts.——Seeks he our poſſeſſions?
'—Take them! enjoy them freely! and let
'us retire to ſome ſeat of humble obſcu-
'rity; where no curious eye ſhall ever
'pierce through our receſs; where the name
'of Saliſbury was never known or uttered
'by

'by the voice of Fame. There ſhall my 'child labour with the lowly peaſant: and 'never ſhall his mother betray the ſecret of 'his birth. But if his blood muſt be the 'horrid purchaſe—O let Raymond ſecure 'his power and riches beyond the reach of 'time or fortune. Let me too periſh. 'Drive not all mercy from your hearts: 'but ſpare me the dreadful ſight of my 'child's blood. No! let me be made the 'firſt victim of your cruelty.'

Pity and humanity for a moment aſſailed the ruthleſs heart of Grey; but ſoon were they repelled. He ſternly anſwered, that ſhe and her ſon might yet be happy; that the conditions were eaſy and honourable: but that diſdain and pride were no good proofs of a mother's tenderneſs: that the fortune of this boy was in her power, and that, ſhould he ſuffer, ſhe herſelf would be

the author of his ſufferings.——Then calling the attendants, he commanded them to remove young William. His mother fell upon her knees, ſtretching out her trembling arms in expreſſive ſilence: To her boſom the boy fled for refuge from his infant terrors; ſhe roſe, and claſped him to her breaſt, devouring the dear object with eyes of frantic fondneſs. The miniſters of cruelty relented and heſitated: but Grey ſeverely repeated his command. They ſurrounded the diſtracted mother and her weeping ſon; ſoon conquered her feeble efforts to detain him, and tore him from her ſtruggling graſp. Her ſhrieks echoed through the caſtle, and wounded the affrighted ear: till nature, haraſſed and exhauſted by contending with the vaſt affliction, loſt its powers, and the Counteſs lay pale and lifeleſs upon the ground. The tumult in her apartment had already reached the ear of Raymond,

who

who flew to enquire the cauſe, and now came to be a witneſs of her diſtreſs. He ſoon learned the cauſe, and far from approving the cruelty of his minion, he received him with frowns and reproof. He ordered the female attendants to convey their afflicted lady to her couch, and with all tender cares to recall her dying ſenſes. Thither he himſelf ſoon followed, to reſtore her dear ſon, and to calm her terrors: but ſhe had now no ear for comfort. The fever had already ſeized upon her; enflamed her eye, and raged in her boiling veins. Her diſordered fancy tormented her with killing images of terror; and his preſence added new force to her delirium. Raymond felt all the violence of love and diſtraction: and Grey ſtood aghaſt. This ſubtle minion laboured, firſt, to appeaſe the reſentment of his lord, and then to give him comfort. He himſelf appeared moſt

ſollicitous for the recovery of the counteſs, although his wicked heart ſecretly exulted in her preſent danger. Should ſhe live, and at length conſent to accept of Raymond for a huſband, his inſolence muſt then be remembered, and his lord taught to deteſt the author of her ſufferings. Should ſhe ſtill refuſe to give her hand to Raymond, this lord could not long continue his oppreſſion, but muſt ſoon reſign his unjuſt pretenſions, and thus daſh all his own hopes of rich rewards. Nay, poſſibly his conduct might hereafter meet a ſevere puniſhment. Thus he reaſoned: and regarded her death as an event highly to be wiſhed. An infant heir might eaſily be diſpoſed of, and Raymond inveſted with his rights without controul or oppoſition. Every hour flattered his hopes with deſperate accounts of Ela and her alarming ſituation. His art was exerted to the utmoſt, to di-

vert

vert the attention of Raymond from her diſtreſs, to alienate his mind from a woman who had preſumptuouſly inſulted his paſſion; and to dazzle him with the gay view of thoſe fortunes which were now ready to crown his wiſhes. To inflame the pride of this lord, was his artifice and flattery principally directed. And, when he had warmed his imagination with proſpects of riches and magnificence; when he had worked up his pliant mind to the due pitch of inſolence and fierceneſs, he even dared to hint at the neceſſity of defeating all future claims; and with hardened calmneſs and indifference declared, that it muſt be his own care prudently and ſecretly to diſpoſe of young William. Nor did Raymond, in his preſent temper, hear him with abhorrence or emotion. To ſuch inconſiſtencies is the mind of man hurried by the tyranny of paſſions. He had juſt expreſſed the ten-

dereſt pity for the Counteſs; and now, when the determined villain had propoſed to deſtroy her infant ſon, he ſtarted not at the horrid counſel, nor refuſed his conſent.

SECT. II.

BUT that pity which pride and intereſted cruelty denied her, Ela now found in her own ſex. Her principal female attendant, though the creature of Raymond, and by him appointed for her ſervice, had long beheld her ſorrows and maternal fondneſs, with ſecret grief and ſympathy. She had, herſelf, been wife and mother, had felt and known their endearments and cares. Long had ſhe wept in ſecret for the afflictions of her injured lady, and now attended on her ſick couch, with all the fond zeal and concern, which a woman's diſtreſs could

could excite in the gentle and feeling mind of woman. Her affection was now undiſſembled (for her Lord enjoined the moſt aſſiduous care, when the diſorder had firſt ſeized the Counteſs:) and that affection was attended with ſucceſs, proportioned to it's ardor and ſincerity. Nor time nor fatigue could abate her diligence and kind attention to a beloved miſtreſs, who long lay inſenſible of her goodneſs, ſhrinking timorouſly from the hand that preſented relief. At length, however, nature appeared ſtill unconquered in this ſevere conflict. Reaſon began gradually to regain it's native ſeat, and the Counteſs was reſtored to ſome compoſure. Elinor (ſo was her attendant called) watched the happy moment when ſhe began to ſurvey the objects round her without diſtraction, to offer comfort and conſolation. She preſented her ſon, who ſtood weeping by

her ſide, to aſſure her of his ſecurity; and every office which duty and charity could dictate, ſhe buſily performed, to allay the violence of her malady, and to reſtore her languid ſpirit. The Counteſs, touched with her goodneſs, repaid her with the warmeſt expreſſions of regard and gratitude. Their affection was now mutual, and was ſucceeded by mutual confidence. Thus, even amongſt it's enemies, did oppreſſed virtue ſo far prevail, as to reconcile one mind, and to attach one relenting heart, to it's injured cauſe. Ela every hour experienced the happy effects of tender care. She had recovered ſome degree of eaſe and ſtrength: ſhe had leiſure to reflect upon her danger and difficulties: misfortune and ſolitude had effaced the proud thoughts of rank and greatneſs: and without reſerve ſhe opened her ſoul to this attendant; bitterly lamenting the

ſeverity

ſeverity of her fate; who, tho' ſhe numbered many and powerful friends, tho' her fortune and condition gave her the command of a formidable band of vaſſals, yet by foul treachery was cut off from all relief, from all poſſibility of complaining, or petitioning for deliverance, ſubjected to the will of inſolent and cruel enemies, and expoſed to all the diſtreſſes of captivity, in that very place, where ſhe was rightful miſtreſs: ſtrange reward for the ſervices of her great father, and her noble huſband! The attendant, with ardent prayers, and lively effuſions of pity and tenderneſs, gave her ſome ſlight conſolation; but tho' ſhe felt for her diſtreſs, ſhe ſeemed incapable of deviſing any reaſonable means of relief. Hope, patience, and ſuch like terms, which ſound but harſhly in the ear of affliction, ſhe repeated with a warm but impotent zeal; ſhe even ventured to

hint

hint at the expediency of aſſuming an appearance of leſs ſeverity to Lord Raymond; of flattering his fond expectations for a while: thus, to amuſe the buſy and contriving malice of his creature, to gain ſome interval of eaſe, ſome happy reſpite from perſecution. Time and the interpoſition of heaven might then work wonderfully for her deliverance. But the ſoul of Ela ſtill retained a dignity ſuperior to the arts of diſſimulation. She ſtarted with abhorrence, at the thought of ſullying her bright fame by any ſuſpicious conduct, any ſemblance of unworthy condeſcenſion. Her high mind dwelt with more pleaſure on the flattering thoughts of redreſs and vengeance. She reflected that the land ſtill contained many powerful friends to her loſt huſband, and to her noble houſe; ſhe hoped that nothing was neceſſary for her deliverance, and for the puniſhment of her

her oppreſſors, but to inform them of her dangerous and diſtreſsful ſtate. Poſſeſſed with theſe thoughts, ſhe conceived the bold deſign, of eluding the vigilance of Raymond, and of eſcaping to a religious houſe: there to take ſanctuary with her infant ſon, from thence to repreſent to the King, the cruel inſult offered to the memory of his kinſman and faithful ſoldier, and to demand redreſs of his and her own wrongs from the juſtice of the throne, and the power of her friends. She took no pains to conceal theſe ſentiments; but freely communicated the deſign to Elinor, and entreated her aſſiſtance. She enlarged on the power and opportunities of rewarding her fidelity, which ſucceſs muſt give her: ſhe laviſhly poured out gold and jewels. 'Go, ſaid ſhe, find among the dependants of this proud Lord, if there be courage and humanity in any breaſt to favour

favour a virtuous deſign. Here are rewards! a ſmall portion and but an earneſt of that munificence with which my gratitude ſhall repay the benefit.' The attendant at firſt ſeemed aſtoniſhed at the boldneſs of the attempt: whilſt the Counteſs renewed her ſollicitations, a new and ſudden thought ſeemed to ſtart to life within her mind: but before ſhe could give it utterance, their converſation was interrupted; and Elinor commanded to attend inſtantly on Lord Raymond. She departed with a look, which aſſured the Counteſs of her unalterable attachment; but did not entirely diſſipate her terrors. Theſe were inſtantly awakened at the alarm of every thing new and unexpected.

A long interval of ſuſpence encreaſed her anxiety: at length however the faithful attendant returned, and with a chearful

aſpect. 'Deareſt Lady,' ſaid ſhe, 'the 'bleſſed ſaints ſeem to encourage us to 'the bold attempt of eſcaping from theſe 'walls. Lord Raymond hath appointed 'his Knights to make ready in three days 'to accompany him to the neighbouring 'woods; there, to purſue the chaſe. He 'hath enquired of your health: and is 'perſuaded that you continue ill at eaſe. 'He hath enjoined the exacteſt care and 'vigilance in his abſence, and particularly 'that none be ſuffered to approach your 'chamber, but in my preſence and by 'my appointment. The command of 'the caſtle is to be committed to my 'brother: and ſtrict ward to be main-'tained. But he is no friend to oppreſ-'ſion. I have already ſounded, and find 'him apt to our purpoſe.' Ela paſſion-ately entreated that this man ſhould be brought before her: but ſoon recollecting

the

the neceſſity of avoiding all ſuſpicion, ſhe contented herſelf with intruſting to Elinor the important charge of prevailing on him. Into her hands ſhe earneſtly gave up all her ſtore of wealth: and the good attendant prudently and faithfully employed ſuch part of it as was neceſſary to confirm the wavering reſolution of her brother. She prevailed, and returned with the pleaſing tidings that he had conſented to follow the fortunes of the Counteſs, and to ſeize the approaching occaſion to convey her and her young ſon to any place of ſafety. In the mean time ſhe adviſed that Ela ſhould ſtill continue the appearance of malady and weakneſs, and patiently wait the happy moment of her deliverance. The eyes of this lady brightened up with joy and pleaſure, and her breaſt laboured with the violent emotions of gratitude. 'Gracious powers!'

(thus her paſſions forced their way) 'Is 'this the vaſſal of an unjuſt oppreſſor? 'This the agent of tyranny and cruelty? 'Say, whence hath thy gentle manners 'been ſo ſtrangely aſſociated with ſavage 'pride, and uſurpation? Whence hath thy 'goodneſs and affection been choſen by 'Lord Raymond to miniſter to his pur-'poſes? Who art thou, that feeleſt my 'affliction, and art thus kindly ſollicitous 'for my relief?' The attendant wept, and thus returned anſwer to the enquiries of the Counteſs.

SECT.

SECT. III.

'HAppier days have I beheld; and better fortune have I experienced, 'I had a huſband, lady, brave and honeſt: 'a ſon too, trained to arms, and exerciſed 'in deeds of war. —— But heaven was 'pleaſed to take them from me.'——Here her grief broke forth with ſtill greater violence, and redoubled the attention of the Counteſs; nor did ſhe ſoon recover ſuch eaſe as enabled her to proceed in the following manner.

'Our reſidence was in the neighbour-'hood of Nottingham, where we lived in 'peace, removed from the cares of great-'neſs, and the bitterneſs of diſtreſs. My 'huſband was loving; Edmund our only 'child, the delight of our eyes, and com-

'fort

'fort of our advancing years. Tho' bred
'to arms, he was mild and gentle,
'and tho' nurtured in the humble vale of
'life, he was brave and generous. Even
'from his infant years, he had conceived
'an affection for the daughter (ſhe too the
'only child) of a neighbouring Franklin,
'which grew with their ripening age;
'nor was condemned or controuled. The
'fond parents beheld this youthful pair
'of lovers with ſecret joy; and hoped,
'in them, to tranſmit their names and
'little inheritances to ſucceeding times.
'They were betrothed, and but waited
'for the holy benediction to crown their
'wiſhes; when war and tumult began to
'rage in England. John was then our
'king: he had ſubmitted, and was re-
'conciled to the holy father. He had at-
'tempted to recover his dominions in
'France; but, abandoned by his diſcon-

'tented Nobles, he returned to his king-
'dom, full of vexation and revenge.
'Ah, Lady! little doth the high-born
'Courtier or the powerful Lord conceive
'of that weight of misery which public
'dissentions heap upon the lowly subject!
'The King marched like an enemy thro'
'the land, spoiling and ravaging the estates
'of his wayward Barons. He arrived at
'Nottingham; where my Lord of Can-
'terbury, at length, prevailed to stop his
'unfriendly progress. He continued here
'for some time: his followers, secure in
'his protection, and enriched by his bounty,
'little regarded the severe limits which
'laws prescribe. Gay revellers they; who,
'full of mirth and disport, beguiled the
'time in song and dance with courtly
'dames. One of these glittering minions
'of royal favour perchance cast his wan-
'ton eyes on Edyth, the maid betrothed

'to

'to my ſon. Accurſed be the hour, in
'which he diſcovered, and was enamoured
'with her beauty! He courted her in
'gentle guiſe, with fair ſemblance of re-
'ſpect and decent love: he dazzled her
'with the view of coſtly gifts; he pro-
'miſed much, he ſighed often, and ſome-
'times wept; but all-fruitleſs were his en-
'deavours to conquer the integrity of this
'honeſt maiden. Yet, not entirely diſ-
'pleaſed at his flattering arts, ſhe liſtened
'without terror or abhorrence, whilſt yet
'his purpoſe was not directly avowed;
'and ſometimes, yielding to his courteſy,
'ſuffered him to lead her forth, and to
'amuſe her ear with tales of courtly plea-
'ſures and ſplendor. The jealous anxiety
'of Edmund ever watched their ſteps at
'wary diſtance: 'till at length, when this
'incautious maid had been conducted to
'a ſecret path, when ſhe ſuddenly found

'her helpleſs innocence at the mercy of a 'luxurious courtier; when he boldly preſt 'his ſuit, and attempted to force her, 'trembling and diſmayed, to his wicked 'purpoſe, her piercing ſhrieks ſoon ſum-'moned a faithful deliverer to her ſide. 'Edmund, mad with rage and jealouſy, 'fatally ſmote the raviſher; and careleſsly 'leaving him weltering in blood, con-'veyed away his Edyth, who had fainted 'with terror and ſurprize, and ſafely de-'poſited his heart's dear treaſure in her 'father's dwelling.

'An event like this was not to be con-'cealed: nor did the unhappy youth, now 'mad with paſſion, and deaf to the calls 'of prudence, fear to avow his bloody 'deed freely and publicly. Soon was 'the body diſcovered; and ſoon was Ed-'mund ſeized, and torn from his frantic 'miſtreſs.

'miſtreſs. An armed band hurried him
'away, with loud and tumultuous de-
'nunciations of vengeance; when happily
'the King, now returning from the chace,
'deſcried the rout, and diſpatched an at-
'tendant to demand the cauſe of ſuch
'diſorder. Of this he was inſtantly in-
'formed; and curious to learn the occa-
'ſion of ſuch a preſumptuous violence
'upon his officer, to view the man who
'even boaſted of his outrage, he ordered
'the criminal to be brought before him.
'My ſon was now led forward; and as he
'prepared to caſt himſelf at the feet of
'his Liege, the fiery beaſt which the
'King beſtrode, frighted at the tumult,
'began to ſtart and rear up with ungovern-
'able wildneſs. The attendants inſtantly
'alighted; but before they could ſupport
'their falling maſter, Edmund had burſt
'like lightening from the hands of his

'guards, broke his fall, and remounted
'him. This zeal and vigour were beheld
'with wonder, and ſecret applauſe. The
'King himſelf was by no means unaffec-
'ted by the incident. His looks grew
'leſs ſevere; and in a tone, not angry, but
'majeſtically grave, he demanded to know
'who he was, and what had prompted
'him to this act of blood. My ſon
'kneeled before him, modeſt but not ab-
'ject; and with an ingenuous plainneſs
'and freedom, related the unhappy cauſe
'that had provoked him to this outrage:
'his love to the betrothed maid; the arts
'and treachery to which ſhe had been ex-
'poſed; the horrid attempt of violation;
'and his own fatal encounter with the
'King's officer. In a word, he acknow-
'ledged the crime, and with decent bold-
'neſs declared himſelf reſigned to the
'puniſhment, and prepared to yield up his

'for-

'forfeit life. The King liſtened with at-
'tention, and in the natural and unaffected
'narrative ſaw the full proof of all that
'had been alledged. With a ſudden
'warmth, he ſwore by the foot of God,
'(his uſual oath) that his ſervant had de-
'ſervedly met his fate; that Edmund was
'a brave youth, and merited not only par-
'don, but reward; and that henceforward
'he ſhould be his ſoldier. The witneſſes
'of this ſcene were not ſlow to applaud
'the ſentiments of their ſovereign. They
'vied with each other in their praiſes of
'my ſon, whoſe youthful breaſt was but
'too ſuſceptible of their impreſſions.
'How happy did we then eſteem our-
'ſelves, when we ſaw our child reſcued
'from deſtruction, graced with the royal
'favour, and entruſted with an honour-
'able command! To us he paid his filial
'duty; then flew to the beloved Edyth,

'to comfort her ſorrow and revive her 'ſpirit, confounded and depreſſed by the 'late event. Of her, he took a tender 'leave, with aſſurances of invariable fide-'lity, and paſſionate vows of ſpeedy re-'turn to compleat his happineſs; then de-'parted to perform the duties of his 'new charge. But we were not as yet 'totally bereft of our darling object; 'ſome intervals he found for brief, yet fre-'quent viſitings; to delight us with the 'accounts of his advancing fortune. So 'compleatly was he now poſſeſſed with the 'thoughts of war and honour; ſo elevated 'and tranſported by the view of courtly 'ſplendor, and the gay promiſes of youth-'ful ambition, that love ſeemed to hold 'but a ſecond place within his mind: and 'the ſighs and half-ſuppreſſed tears of 'Edyth, ſometimes confeſſed her jealous 'fear of his eſtrangement. He ſaw,

'and

'and chid her unjuſt ſuſpicions: to allay
'them, he propoſed that the holy Father
'ſhould inſtantly unite their hands. Their
'nuptials were ſudden; and their con-
'jugal endearments, alas! too ſoon inter-
'rupted by our ſon's neceſſary attendance
'on his royal maſter.

'The land was now threatened with all
'the calamities of civil war. A ſecond
'time had the bold Barons put on their
'armour, and collected their vaſſals againſt
'John. My huſband, altho' he had already
'ſuffered in their cauſe, yet ſtill adhered
'with an obſtinate integrity to that ſide
'which he deemed the great bulwark of
'his country. He earneſtly preſt young
'Edmund to abandon the ſervice of a
'prince whoſe favour was precarious; ſud-
'denly and capriciouſly beſtowed; and
'as ſuddenly and capriciouſly withdrawn.

'But

"But he was heard with reluctance and "averſion. He urged the ſolid comforts "of honeſt poverty and contentment; he "called it ſhameful (forgive me, Lady, "if his homely ſentiments offend) to unite "with rapacious foreigners, and to em- "brue his hands in the blood of country- "men and brethren. His ſon was ſtill "unmoved, and to all his arguments op- "poſed one plea, his forfeit life, and the "vaſt debt of gratitude he owed the King. "A father's authority was then exerted. "He was commanded, upon his filial obe- "dience, to attend on the confederated "lords; the terrors of divine vengeance "were denounced on his undutiful obſti- "nacy. He heſitated; but the flattering "proſpects of ambition at length prevailed. "He forgot the ſubmiſſion due to a parent's "authority; full of gay hopes and im- "patient of controul, he haſtened away to

"ſerve

'ſerve his liege lord, whilſt my huſband,
'irritated at his diſobedience, pronounced
'ſomething like a curſe upon his unhappy
'ſon, and followed the ſtandard of Wil-
'liam de Albinet the commanding Baron.

'Thro' the courſe of theſe unhappy
'conteſts, Edmund encreaſed in honour;
'and ſtill more and more approved his
'active valour. It is too well known
'with what ſhameful diſregard to the
'protection of their adherents, the Barons
'ſuffered a number of the moſt faithful
'to their cauſe to be ſhut up within the
'caſtle of Rocheſter, and to be ſorely
'preſt by the royal army, while they
'themſelves rioted in London. In a fatal
'hour, Edmund was commanded to the
'ſiege of this caſtle.—O Lady! a few
'words are ſufficient for the reſt of his
'ſad ſtory. How doth the dreadful re-
'membrance

'membrance pierce my afflicted heart! 'Many deeds of manhood did he atchieve; 'and oftentimes did he repell the deſpe-'rate valour of the beſieged. At the 'head of a ſmall party, he at length ven-'tured too raſhly to approach the caſtle 'walls; and was ſuddenly encountered by 'a larger body of the enemy. The con-'teſt was obſtinate and bloody: but his 'aſſociates were borne down by numbers, 'and left him, as they yielded, ſingly 'engaged with a ſoldier, whoſe ſword 'threatened deſtruction. They ruſhed 'upon each other, they cloſed, they re-'doubled their deadly blows, 'till at 'length, a well directed ſtroke from the 'arm of Edmund fell upon the front of 'his antagoniſt, cleft his beaver, and 'uncovered his wounded head. Edmund 'ſtarted! ſtood aghaſt! uttered ſome con-'fuſed ſounds of horror! How can I ſpeak

'it!——The ill-fated youth——O for 'ever accurſed be the authors of every 'civil ſtrife!——had ſmote his father.'—Here the diſorder of the unhappy mother ſtopped her voice. The Counteſs was ſcarcely leſs affected: ſhe trembled, as if witneſs of the horrid ſcene: and Elinor at length proceeded thus.

'My huſband, ſtunned and faint, 'was ſinking down; when Edmund ſeized 'him in his arms, and gently laid him 'upon the earth. He kneeled before him, 'in all the bitterneſs of anguiſh and diſ-'traction. His lamentations were loud 'and wild; and earneſtly did he implore 'for pardon; and bitterly did he curſe 'his own fatal error. The languid eyes 'of his father were fixed kindly upon 'him; his faltring voice ſpoke forgive-'neſs. And now was Edmund preparing

'to

'to bind up his wound, and to convey
'him to ſome place of ſafety and relief,
'when the noiſe of tumult and rout grew
'loud. He turned his head haſtily, to
'learn the cauſe; and, in that fatal mo-
'ment, received a ſhot from a croſs-bow
'full in his brain. The ſon ſunk down
'by the ſide of the bleeding father; the
'routed, and the purſuers (a party of the
'royal army who had come to the ſup-
'port of their aſſociates) trampled upon
'their bodies. Edmund had at once ex-
'pired with a groan. My huſband lived
'but to relate the dreadful ſtory.'

Here the attendant ſtruggled to ſup-preſs her ſorrow. Not ſo the gentle Counteſs. Her tender mind was deeply pierced; and freely was her pity uttered.—'Thus,' ſaid Elinor, 'in one accurſed 'hour, was I bereft of all my comfort.

'The

'The calamity was too great for my 'weak heart to bear. The relation in- 'ſtantly confuſed my brain, and deprived 'me of reaſon. Long did I continue in 'a melancholy inſenſibility to my diſtreſs; 'and perhaps, heaven was kind in thus 'afflicting me. When time, and a bro- 'ther's tender care, had at length reſtored 'my diſordered ſenſes, I learned, that the 'wretched Edyth had been ſeized with the 'pangs of untimely childbirth, had with 'pain and ſorrow given her lifeleſs bur- 'den to the light, long languiſhed in ſick- 'neſs and grief; and was at length re- 'tired to a religious houſe, there to end 'her wretched days. And there were they 'ſoon ended. I myſelf had been deſpoiled 'of all my poſſeſſions, by the fury of 'civil war, in which both parties were 'equally incenſed againſt my huſband or 'my ſon. Reſcued from death, and ſup-

'ported by the kindneſs of my brother, 'the vaſſal of Lord Raymond; him have 'I followed, and by his means have I 'been placed here; ready to obey our 'Lord in all humble and honeſt duties: 'but we have not yet learned to be the 'baſe inſtruments of oppreſſion.' — Here ſhe pauſed and wept. The Counteſs laboured to comfort, and to inſpire her with hopes of better fortune; repeated her aſſurances of favour and protection; and earneſtly declared, that to be happy, ſhe had but to extricate a grateful miſtreſs from her preſent diſtreſs.

SECT.

SECT. IV.

THE long wiſhed for day at length appeared, when Raymond and his Knights were to iſſue forth, and Oſwald the brother of Elinor was to be warder of the caſtle. The time and manner of eſcape had been duely concerted. The garb of an humble domeſtic had been provided for the Counteſs: in which diſguiſe, ſhe, together with her ſon and faithful woman, were to be conveyed thro' a poſtern gate, which led to a neighbouring wood: there was Oſwald to provide horſes, and from thence to conduct them to a religious houſe, which had been enriched by the pious bounty of Ela, in her more proſperous days: and where ſhe now hoped to find due regard, and inviolable ſanctuary. The

day was ſpent in preparation; in fears and hopes, and anxiety. At length the mid-hour of night approached, the hour appointed for departure. Oſwald by means of a truſty ſervant had placed his horſes in the wood; and had ſo ſtationed his men as to prevent them from being witneſſes of his deſign. The Counteſs had put on her diſguiſe, embraced her ſon, and delivered him to the hand of Elinor. Their conductor led them cautiouſly and ſilently thro' the caſtle. They had paſſed the gate, and were now ſtretching towards the wood with more enlivened ſteps, when the ſhrill ſound of a horn proceeded from the other ſide of the caſtle, and proclaimed the approach of ſome knight or ſtranger. Oſwald ſtarted, the women trembled; the ſound was loudly repeated, and returned from the adjacent hills. When Oſwald, marking where the full moon diſcloſed a

beaten

beaten path, and pointing towards the wood, earneſtly preſt them to bend their courſe thither without fear or heſitation, and there to wait his coming; which he promiſed ſhould be ſpeedy. He ſpoke of the preſent alarm as of no moment, but declared himſelf reſolved to learn the occaſion of it. They obeyed; and he returned into the caſtle: where he appeared opportunely to prevent ſuſpicion or detection. The domeſtics were all rouſed, and ſome had already mounted the battlements to demand, who, at this dead hour, had approached the caſtle, and on what occaſion. They were anſwered, that there ſtood two perſons at the gates diſpatched by Hubert chief juſticiary, to Lord Raymond on eſpecial affairs; that they had been miſguided, and wandered thro' the country until night had overtaken them: that at length they had recovered the true

path, and that their fatigue required immediate entrance and refreſhment. By the command of Oſwald, they were admitted and entertained with due courteſy. He, tho' determined to abandon the ſervice of Raymond, and impatient to rejoin the Counteſs and her ſon, yet could not reſiſt the deſire of conferring with theſe meſſengers; and eſpecially when he learned from one of them, who ſeemed of inferior quality, that they brought ſome intelligence about Lord Saliſbury. He invited this man to refreſh himſelf with wine (for the other had retired to reſt.) He entertained him with all hoſpitable kindneſs, and from him learned, that but a little time ſince, ſolemn juſts and tournaments had been held at the Engliſh court, in which a young knight of France (induced, as he declared, by the fame of the gallant nobles of Britain) had appeared, and diſtinguiſhed

him.

himſelf by his proweſs and courage. That the King and his courtiers had received him with all due honours: that in ſome converſations, he had lamented the fate of an Engliſh Lord known in both realms by the name of Saliſbury: who, as he was informed, had been purſued by adverſe fortune in Poictieu, obliged to fly before his enemies, abandoned by his few attendants, and accompanied only by a fair and noble lady; and that too ſtrong reaſons there were to fear that he had periſhed. Oſwald heard him with a violent yet well-diſſembled emotion; and having prevailed on him to retire, pauſed, tho' ſtill anxious to ſeek the Counteſs, and debated within his mind, whether he ſhould communicate this intelligence or no. As he was not ſufficiently acquainted with the refined and exalted ſentiments of noble minds, he concluded that the hopes of her Lord's return

were Ela's only motive for receiving the addreſſes of Lord Raymond with ſuch ſeverity and abhorrence, and that any aſſurances of his death muſt determine her to accept the tenders of his love: he therefore reſolved freely to declare what he had juſt now heard; and hoped that ſhe might thus be prevailed on to abandon the deſign of flying, and to return to her caſtle.

The domeſtics were now ſeparated; and ſilence and tranquillity again reſtored: when Oſwald again iſſued forth, ſtill firmly reſolved to obey the commands of the Counteſs, whatever theſe might be, and faithfully to follow her fortunes, ſhould ſhe be ſtill reſolute to tempt the dangers of flight. He found her at the appointed ſtation impatient of his tedious abſence, and almoſt ſinking under the terrors of night and ſolitude. Elinor ſat by her ſide,

ſtill more diſmayed, ſupporting her young ſon, and ſhielding him from the dampy air whilſt he lay compoſed in peaceful ſleep. The moon was haſtening to her decline; and threatened to involve them in all the horrors of darkneſs; when their long expected protector at length appeared to relieve their diſtracting fears. He briefly related the occaſion of his delay; the arrival of theſe meſſengers, and the diſcourſe which he had held with one of them. The bare mention of intelligence about Lord William, raiſed an univerſal agitation in the Counteſs. The melancholy air which Oſwald aſſumed, encreaſed her terror and impatience: nor had he yet finiſhed his relation, when the blood deſerted the cheeks of Ela. She cloſed her eyes, and died away. Elinor ſhrieked, Oſwald ſupported her; but their cares were a long time ineffectual. At length, the

Counteſs raiſed her languid front, and breathed a heart-felt ſigh. 'He was then 'diſloyal!' ſaid ſhe: —— 'A noble lady! '——was ſhe noble?——But alas, I fear, 'heaven hath ſeverely puniſhed his guilt.' Oſwald now perceived his own imprudence, and would have offered comfort: but the Counteſs was wholly engaged by her own ſad thoughts. He repeatedly preſt and enforced the danger of her preſent ſituation; and the neceſſity of ſpeedy departure: but no attention could he gain. At length, turning her ſadly ſtreaming eyes ſlowly upon him; 'No, my friend!' ſaid ſhe, 'theſe 'languid limbs muſt here find their 'grave.——Yet——it were a bleſſing to 'end my days in the manſions of devotion, 'to hear the reverend father ſpeak com-'fort to my departing ſpirit:——but, I 'cannot——this frame is too feeble: the 'hand of death preſſes too ſeverely upon

'me.—

'me.——O friends! if ever your hearts 'knew pity, look upon that boy. He was 'not born to this wretchedneſs: he hath 'ſtill noble friends.——If you would at- 'tone to heaven for your offences, ſave 'him; convey him quickly from the 'power of his enemies. Seek the place 'appointed for our retreat; there ſave 'yourſelves and him: there ſhall the 'friends of his houſe find him reſcued 'from cruelty and uſurpation: they ſhall 'protect and defend him; they ſhall aſſert 'his rights and reward your fidelity. 'Theſe jewels, theſe treaſures ſhall re- 'ward you. My ſon ſhall live to re- 'ward you.'—Elinor, kneeling before her with weeping eyes and lifted hands, earneſtly entreated her to collect her ſpirits and to purſue her intended flight: uttering the moſt ardent and paſſionate vows that fear or force ſhould never drive her from her be-

loved miſtreſs.——'If I am beloved,' ſaid the Counteſs, 'ſhew me thy love; 'and ſave my child. Think not of me. 'I can die here: and ſome charitable hand 'may perhaps be found to cloſe my eyes 'in peace.' Here ſhe again fainted; nor could all the tender care and ſollicitude exerted to relieve her, reſtore her to life and ſenſe. Elinor hung weeping over her: Oſwald was diſmayed and diſtracted: he ſaw the danger of this raſh enterprize, and could think of no reſource: he would have conſulted with his ſiſter; but her mind was engaged only by her miſtreſs. He ſuddenly called to his attendant, who ſtill continued at ſome diſtance with the horſes: one of theſe he mounted: the Counteſs was raiſed up and placed reclining in his arms. Thus he proceeded gently towards a cottage which lay at ſome ſmall diſtance; whoſe charitable inhabi-

habitants roſe at the noiſe of benighted travellers, and admitted them. The Counteſs was diſpoſed upon their humble couch, and now once again recovered from her trance. She thanked the tenderneſs of the afflicted Elinor: then calling to Oſwald, with hands and eyes raiſed to heaven, ſhe earneſtly conjured him by all his hopes of future happineſs, to fly with her ſon to ſanctuary: to proclaim his and her wrongs: and particularly to ſeek the protection of the Lord de Warren his father's noble friend; who would receive and ſhield his helpleſs innocence, aſſert his rights, and controul his oppreſſors. Of herſelf ſhe ſpake with indifference; as a perſon on the point of finding refuge from her enemies in the arms of death. Oſwald was ſo perſuaded: he regarded her preſent languid ſtate as the laſt ſad period of her life; and looking tenderly upon his ſiſter, ſeemed to

wiſh

wiſh that ſhe could fly from the reſentment of Lord Raymond. But ſoon were his thoughts checked by the zealous declarations of this friendly matron, that no fear of power, no threats of puniſhment, no motive whatever ſhould prevail upon her to abandon her dear miſtreſs: ſhe urged him to obey her commands with ſpeed, and to leave them to the protection of heaven. The honeſt heart of Oſwald was affected: in a paſſionate fit of zeal, he declared himſelf ready to fly with young William. The anxious mother thanked him with her looks: ſhe claſped her ſon with a feeble but tender embrace; and lifting her eyes devoutly towards heaven, commended him to the protection of all the holy angels. His looks confeſſed his infant fear, when ſhe delivered him to his conducter. He wept, and was conveyed away. Some few tears dropt from the

Conn-

Counteſs; but the recollection of his eſcape, and the hopes of his preſervation, ſoon gave comfort to her afflicted mind, and animated her with new life and ſpirit. Her eyes were lighted up anew; her voice leſs faltering, and her frame leſs languid. She now ſeemed to defy her oppreſſors, and declared herſelf reſolved to aſſume her rightful authority and ſtate; to act as miſtreſs of her caſtle and domain, in open defiance of the bold intruders. By the dawn of morning, ſome peaſants were diſpatched to the caſtle to give notice of her preſent ſituation, and to order ſuch conveniences as were neceſſary for her removal. A litter together with the proper attendants was ſoon ſent for this purpoſe. Elinor, ſtill faithful to her charge, waited on the ſide of her beloved lady: who now again entered her own ſtately hall, and was laid with care and tender offices of duty upon her own couch.

SECT.

SECT. V.

IN the mean time, confuſion had ſpread among the domeſtics. Morning diſcovered the deſertion of Oſwald; and ſcarcely had meſſengers been diſpatched to inform Lord Raymond of this event, and the arrival of the two ſtrangers, when they learned the ſituation of the Counteſs, and were directed to conduct her back to her apartment. A ſecond meſſage was inſtantly diſpatched to their Lord, with this alarming intelligence: and, ere long, he appeared in view, goaring the ſides of his courſer, whilſt a few attendants ſtretched after him at ſome diſtance, in vain ſtriving to keep pace with his impatience. He entered the caſtle with looks wild and diſordered; and flew towards the apart-

ment of the Counteſs; but was ſtopped by ſome of her maidens, who were directed to inform him that her preſent weakneſs and malady required reſt, and could not permit him to approach. He called for Elinor, who appeared before him trembling. He ſternly reproached her with preſumptuous treachery and diſobedience; and demanded to know where her brother lay concealed, whither and for what purpoſe he had fled. Elinor ſtill trembled and was ſilent: Raymond thundered out terrible denunciations of vengeance; when the Counteſs, who heard his rage from the adjacent chamber, ſuddenly ſent to deſire his preſence. He ruſhed in with glaring looks of fury and diſtraction; when, riſing her head gently from her pillow, Ela thus accoſted him. 'Proud Lord, thy power is at an end. 'I am above thy oppreſſion; I am haſtening to the manſions of peace. My ſon

'is

'is ſafe. Yes! that honeſt man has con-
'veyed him to the neighbouring monaſtry,
'whoſe hallowed ſanctuary ſhall protect
'him from thee and thy minions.
'Thither thou canſt not force thy way.
'Thence, ſhall our wrongs be boldly
'and loudly echoed thro' the land, and
'ſoon ſhall the noble friends of Saliſbury
'appear, to end thy uſurpation, to chaſ-
'tiſe thy miniſters of cruelty, and to re-
'venge the injuries done even to the
'meaneſt of Ela's attendants.'——Thus
ſpeaking, ſhe turned away with marks of
ſcorn; again reclined her head, nor deigned
the leaſt regard to his extravagant ex-
preſſions of vexation and ſurprize. He
burſt away in mad diſorder and confuſion:
he ranged wildly thro' the galleries; ſtarted,
and endeavoured to collect his thoughts
and allay his paſſions: curſt his own raſh
folly which had tempted him abroad,

afforded

afforded this opportunity of detecting and defeating his deſigns, and threatened to cover him with ſhame and ſcorn. Then again he ruſhed forward in an agony of rage and vexation, when one of the meſſengers from Hubert approached with reſpectful obeiſance; and obliged him to aſſume ſome appearance of eaſe and compoſure.

From him Lord Raymond learned the ſeveral particulars, which his companion had before imparted to Oſwald. But as this man was admitted more intimately into the confidence of Hubert, he was farther directed to declare, that the friends to the houſe of Saliſbury began to expreſs their fears, that the long protracted reſidence of Raymond in this caſtle, without any intelligence being received of the diſpoſitions of the Counteſs, any aſſurances

of her conſent to accept his hand, had raiſed jealouſies and ſuſpicions in their minds; and that Hubert therefore urged him to renew his efforts, if he ſtill continued unſucceſsful; to improve thoſe rumours about Earl William, into full and certain aſſurances of his death, and with all poſſible ſpeed and earneſtneſs to haſten on his own nuptials with the Counteſs. He thanked the ſtranger, and commended his fidelity; he requeſted him to retire for a while, promiſing to confer more fully with him at better leiſure: then reſigned himſelf to the diſorder of his mind, which this information and advice ſerved to inflame and irritate. He now ſaw the miſguided courſe which he had purſued. He formed the moſt dreadful preſages of that diſhonour which muſt attend his violence and unlawful oppreſſion. His paſſion for the Counteſs was ſtill alive; and for a while

he

he ſeemed reſolved once more to try the gentle arts of love and tenderneſs; but the recollection of her rigour and diſdain, her wrongs and ſufferings, in a moment daſhed all his hopes, and he reſolved to fall at her feet, to implore her pardon, and to retire from her caſtle. For this purpoſe he again approached her apartment, and demanded admittance. Elinor appeared before him, kneeled, and with many tears implored his indulgence for the weak ſtate of her unhappy Lady. 'Heaven only knows,' ſaid the kind attendant, 'whether ſhe hath yet a few 'days of life remaining. Let not thy 'noble nature afflict the already too ſe-'verely afflicted. Let her die in peace; 'or if ſhe may yet live, break not on that 'tranquillity which may be the happy 'means of reſtoring her.' 'Wretch!' cried Raymond, wildly ſurveying her, as

ſhe humbled herſelf before him, 'thou 'haſt undone me! Accurſed be the ſlave 'who hath aſſiſted thee to betray me! 'But why do I think of thee, thou rep-'tile? Come, lead me to this Lady; let 'me diſpel her maladies, let me give her 'peace, and leave her.'——Elinor ſtarted up, confounded and aſtoniſhed at this myſterious language, earneſt for an explanation, yet too much awed and terrified to ſpeak her wiſhes. Raymond ſternly repeated his orders; and in that moment, the inhuman Grey, with all marks of haſte and impatience, ruſhed impetuouſly into the apartment.

He had heard of the eſcape and return of the Counteſs, and of the flight of Oſwald. He had ſpurred on with wild ſpeed to learn more particularly the reaſon and purpoſe of theſe alarming events; his own con-

conſcious guilt had raiſed dreadful preſages in his mind: nor were theſe allayed by the diſorder in which he now found Lord Raymond. To him he addreſſed ſome haſty and imperfect queſtions. Raymond gazed on him for a while with an aſpect which plainly diſcovered an inward ſtrife, and doubt whether to accuſe this man as his evil counſellor, or to entreat his aſſiſtance as a faithful friend. At length, as if bowed down by violence of paſſion, he reclined on his arm, and was led away into another apartment. There he diſtinctly recounted the advices he had received from Hubert; and the jealouſies expreſſed by the friends of the houſe of Saliſbury, which muſt now be enflamed and confirmed by the falſe Oſwald, who had fled to ſanctuary with young William. He ſpoke with pity and tenderneſs of the Counteſs, whom his own cruelty had driven

from her caſtle, and whoſe flight had been prevented only by her malady and weakneſs. He expreſſed his fears of detection and diſhonour; that his unwarrantable uſurpation, and attempt upon the conſtancy of Ela, muſt now cover him with ſhame: he therefore declared himſelf reſolved to implore her forgiveneſs, and to retire. The coward heart of Grey felt all the terrors that Raymond had expreſſed with double force. He was inſtantly filled with the imagination of that power and protection which was ſoon to ſupport the injured Counteſs: he trembled at the recollection of his own ſhare of guilt and oppreſſion: he commended the purpoſe of Lord Raymond; and urged him to reſign his pretenſions without delay. But amidſt all his fears, cunning had not yet forſaken him. He ſecretly determined to make this reſolution of his Lord ſeem the effect of

his

his own advice, in order to plead ſome merit with the Counteſs, and, in ſome meaſure, to attone for his former inſolence. He therefore propoſed to Raymond, to make him the meſſenger of his deſign, to entruſt him with the charge of acquainting Ela with his penitence, and his reſignation of all hopes or pretenſions to her love or fortune. 'An interview,' ſaid he, 'can only ſerve to enflame your fond 'paſſion, and to make a ſeparation doubly 'painful. No! truſt not your eyes with 'the too powerful and affecting object.' Raymond conſented; and Grey now prepared to ſummon Elinor, and to deſire admiſſion to the Counteſs; when accidentally, he aſked Lord Raymond, who ſtill dwelt upon the late events, to what place of ſanctuary Oſwald had retired. The neighbouring monaſtery of Sarum was no ſooner mentioned, than, ſuddenly ſtarting,

as

as if a ray of comfort had juſt ſhot thro' his ſoul, his eyes kindled, his cheeks glowed, his whole aſpect ſpoke ſurprize and triumph: he eagerly ſeized the hand of his aſtoniſhed Lord; he pauſed; their eyes encountered each other. 'Hope!' ſaid Grey; 'yet hope!——I muſt depart this 'inſtant.—But, by all your fond wiſhes, 'by all your flattering proſpects of love 'and greatneſs, I conjure you ſuſpend 'your purpoſe: ſee not, ſpeak not to this 'proud Counteſs, 'till my return.' Raymond demanded an explanation, but Grey only repeated his injunctions; urged him to retire, and left him filled with aſtoniſhment and expectation.

END of VOL. I.